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Libel threat in offshore trusts row

# Blair backs 'high calibre' Robinson

By Philip Webster  
POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR gave strong personal backing to Geoffrey Robinson, the multimillionaire Paymaster General, last night in an attempt to end embarrassment over the minister's offshore financial interests.

As Mr Robinson threatened to sue two Sunday newspapers which made allegations about his financial affairs, the Prime Minister made clear that he was the kind of "high calibre business person" that he wanted in his Government. He called for an end to the "carping" about him and insisted that the minister had done nothing wrong.

Mr Robinson's solicitors wrote to both *The Sunday Times* and *The Observer* yesterday, threatening action if they persisted in publishing "ill-informed and defamatory statements concerning our client".

The letter to *The Sunday Times* complains about a "most serious libel" over suggestions that Mr Robinson used a Bermuda trust as a tax avoidance vehicle for his own benefit.

It said that Mr Robinson had "never had any money, shares or any assets on trust or otherwise held in Bermuda". It added: "Neither Mr Robinson, nor his wife nor children are or have ever been beneficiaries of any trust in Bermuda or in any way connected with such a trust."

The second letter denied that Mr Robinson had influenced decisions made by the Orion Trust, the offshore trust registered in Guernsey and created by a family friend.

The letter stated that Mr Robinson did not own and had never owned nearly £3 million of shares in TransTec - a firm he founded - which had been sold to Orion.

Mr Blair's statement of support for Mr Robinson surprised some Labour MPs who - while accepting that Mr Robinson has done nothing wrong - believe that the public regard offshore trusts as a means of avoiding tax.



Robinson: sent solicitors' letters to two editors

Gordon Brown, who as Chancellor is Mr Robinson's boss, has made tackling tax loopholes a priority.

One MP had urged Mr Robinson to resign because he was landing Labour in a major scandal. Paul Flynn said: "He's done nothing that is illegal and he probably has not broken any rules of the House. But I believe what he has done does justify his resignation until the whole matter has been sorted out."

The Tories have continued to accuse Mr Robinson of hypocrisy after his announcement last week that the Government was imposing a £50,000 limit on tax-free savings.

Writing in *The Times* today Peter Lilley, the Shadow Chancellor, says that Mr Blair was supporting Mr Robinson's right to tax reliefs in offshore havens, something

Mr Brown said Labour would not countenance. Mr Robinson's position may be "unsustainable" because of Mr Blair's support but it remains hypocritical, Mr Lilley writes.

Mr Blair told *Channel 4* News that it was not "remotely clear" that Mr Robinson had avoided tax in Britain. "The question is whether these things were ever, as it were, in this country and taken outside this country. That is not, in fact the case."

"Geoffrey Robinson is a highly successful businessman and extremely good minister and he is working for the Government without a ministerial salary. If people of high calibre are to come into the Government and work as former business people they bring an enormous amount to the way that Government is run."

There were, he added, two sorts of people in life: those who carped and were cynical about everything and those who tried to make a contribution. "If things are wrong, let us say they are wrong. Let us not have a whole lot of innuendo to say they are wrong if they are not."

Downing Street officials said that Mr Robinson had Mr Blair's full confidence. "The Prime Minister thinks it is the right thing to have Geoffrey Robinson in the Government in that he complied with all he had to comply with when he became a minister."

But the Liberal Democrat treasury spokesman Malcolm Bruce insisted that the Chancellor still needed to act to close the offshore tax loophole. "This should be done immediately," he said. "Geoffrey Robinson has broken no laws but there is a risk that his use of an overseas trust will be seen to be at variance with the stated tax policy of the Chancellor and the Treasury, where he is after all a senior minister."

"The Chancellor should ensure that UK beneficiaries of overseas trusts established by overseas residents are liable for full UK tax."

Solicitors' letters, page 2  
Peter Lilley, page 18



Sharon and Anne Atkins at their home yesterday. They said their daughter was intelligent and bouncy but not streetwise

## Agony aunt's daughter found

By Emma Wilkins

THE newspaper agony aunt Anne Atkins spoke yesterday of her anguish after her 12-year-old daughter went missing from home for more than 24 hours.

Mrs Atkins's daughter, Lara, had disappeared after setting off for a walk on Sunday morning. She returned to her home in Fulham, southwest London, last night after a friend saw her walking round Hammersmith and called the police.

Mrs Atkins, the wife of a Church of England vicar, had earlier said that she hoped her daughter, who is known by her family nickname "Bink", was having a "big adventure".

Mrs Atkins, who has advised *The Daily Telegraph* readers on their personal problems since her attack on the Church of England's tolerance on homosexuals on Radio 4's *Thought For The Day* a year ago, said Lara, a pupil at St Paul's Girls' school

was "wacky, intelligent and bouncy", but not streetwise.

"We are hoping she is somewhere having a big adventure," Mrs Atkins said. "She tends to live out what she reads in books and we're hoping she has gone off voluntarily."

Lara, who keeps a diary written in English and Latin, wrote an entry for Saturday which said: "I depart." She



Lara: Saturday diary entry said: "I depart"

also left a note in her bedroom reminding herself to set her alarm clock for 5.45am on Sunday. When her family searched her room with police officers they found her Post Office savings book was missing but she had taken no cash or change of clothes.

Mrs Atkins had been concerned about how her daughter might cope with strangers. She said: "She is a very attractive girl. She has had problems more than once with people following her. Things like boys cornering her. She is no good at chasing off strangers. She is quite innocent. She's a normal 12-year-old - a little girl."

Mrs Atkins and her husband Sharon, vicar of St Dionis Church, Fulham, have three other children: Serena, 14, Alexander, 11, and Ben, 9. They last saw Lara on Saturday night and were alerted to her absence by Ben on Sunday morning. "It was about ten to eight on Sunday morning when our nine-year-old came

and got into my bed and said 'he was lonely because Bink wasn't in the children's bedroom,'" Mrs Atkins said. "There was a note saying that she had gone for a walk and would be back soon and not to worry. She wasn't back in time to go to church which was unusual and we called the police at lunchtime."

Mrs Atkins added that family's faith helped them to cope. "We've got a lot of people praying for her. It makes a lot of difference being Christian."

## Ministers warned of four-year spending squeeze

By Jill Sherman  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS have been warned that the current spending clampdown which has been imposed on Whitehall departments for two years could last till the end of this Parliament.

Alistair Darling, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, has written a letter to all Cabinet ministers telling them to plan to stay within existing budgets for the next four years.

Mr Darling has made clear that if any extra money is available it would go on health and education but other departments could find their budgets cut. He told departments that they cannot ease up in their search for savings once the spending review is completed next summer.

The harsh line came as Tony Blair warned Labour rebels that the Government would not bow to their demands to restore cuts in lone parent benefits. The Government is now facing a significant rebellion tomorrow when its plans to cut lone parent benefit by £6 a week are put to a vote in the Commons.

Party officials expect between eight to ten backbenchers in vote against the Government and several others to abstain, possibly as many as 25.

The row overshadowed the launch yesterday of Mr Blair's poverty task force, the Social Exclusion Unit, which will co-ordinate Whitehall action to tackle truancy, homelessness and poor housing.

Launching the unit, Mr Blair said: "We are not going to tolerate a group of citizens being cut off from society's mainstream."

Taskforce launch, page 10  
Libby Purves, page 18  
Leading article and Letters, page 19

## City jobs lost

Hundreds of jobs in the City are expected to be lost after the merger of two Swiss banks with extensive London interests. Page 27  
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## McEnroe serves some nasty advice to Henman

By Philip Davies Broughton

MR NICE GUY has no place at Wimbledon. Tim Henman, Britain's No 2 tennis player and No 1 mother-in-law's dream, has been taking tips from John McEnroe, tennis's most successful snarler, and has concluded that to win, he needs to be meaner.

Henman, 23, had a long talk and 30-minute practice session with McEnroe at the Seniors Event at the Albert Hall last weekend at which McEnroe overcame his old adversary Bjorn Borg.

"I am very competitive but sometimes my demeanour is maybe too calm on court," Henman said yesterday at the Midland Bank Schools Tennis finals in Telford.

"I can show more emotion and McEnroe implied that if I let my inner feelings out a bit more it could help me. Any time you get advice from someone who has achieved what he has you should listen."

On the way to his three Wimbledon titles, McEnroe swore, hurled his racquet in anger, and abused referees.

The sound of his shouting "You cannot be serious" in his thick New York twang still

reverberates round Centre Court.

Henman's sudden decision to turn tough is not, however, so out of character. Three years ago he was disqualified from Wimbledon for accidentally smashing a ball at a ballgirl.

His celebrations of victory are greeted not with naked delirium but with a clenched fist and a frosty look of well-earned triumph.

But McEnroe's "get tough" advice has persuaded Henman to go even further and dispense with any concern for

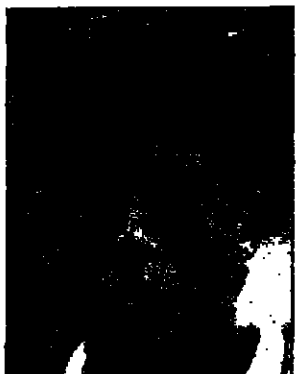
his public image. "I couldn't give a monkey's what people think about me," he said. "I want to achieve on a tennis court. If people were against me and didn't like me but I was winning major championships, I'd take that any day of the week."

Cynics reckoned Henman's cosy relationship with Lucy Heald, a sports television producer and his girlfriend for the past year, may have dulled his competitive itch over the past year.

Whatever the case, Henman is now more determined than ever to succeed on court after the rise of his fellow Briton, Greg Rusedski, who now sits at No 6 in the world rankings compared to Henman's place at 17.

"You're not going to see me swearing or breaking rackets during matches," says Henman, "but to go to the very, very top I have to be more consistent and if I can be more aggressive that will probably help."

As he left the tennis centre he said: "I want to be British. No again badly and I believe I will be in 1998." Ballgirls beware.



Henman: "Sometimes I am too calm on court"

## Evans beats Capital to Virgin Radio

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

CHRIS EVANS, the radio and television presenter, last night took over Virgin Radio from Richard Branson. The £80 million deal will come as a huge blow to Capital Radio, which had hoped to bring Virgin within its group.

Capital was given the surprise news in a letter from Mr Branson, who apparently expressed concern that the reference of the Capital-Virgin Radio merger to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission could cause unnecessary delay to any deal and might even lead to its being blocked by the Government.

Mr Branson, who is in Marrakesh to try again to circumnavigate the world by balloon, said last night: "The merger in our opinion is the idea of Chris Evans to Capital Radio. The station will be in good hands."

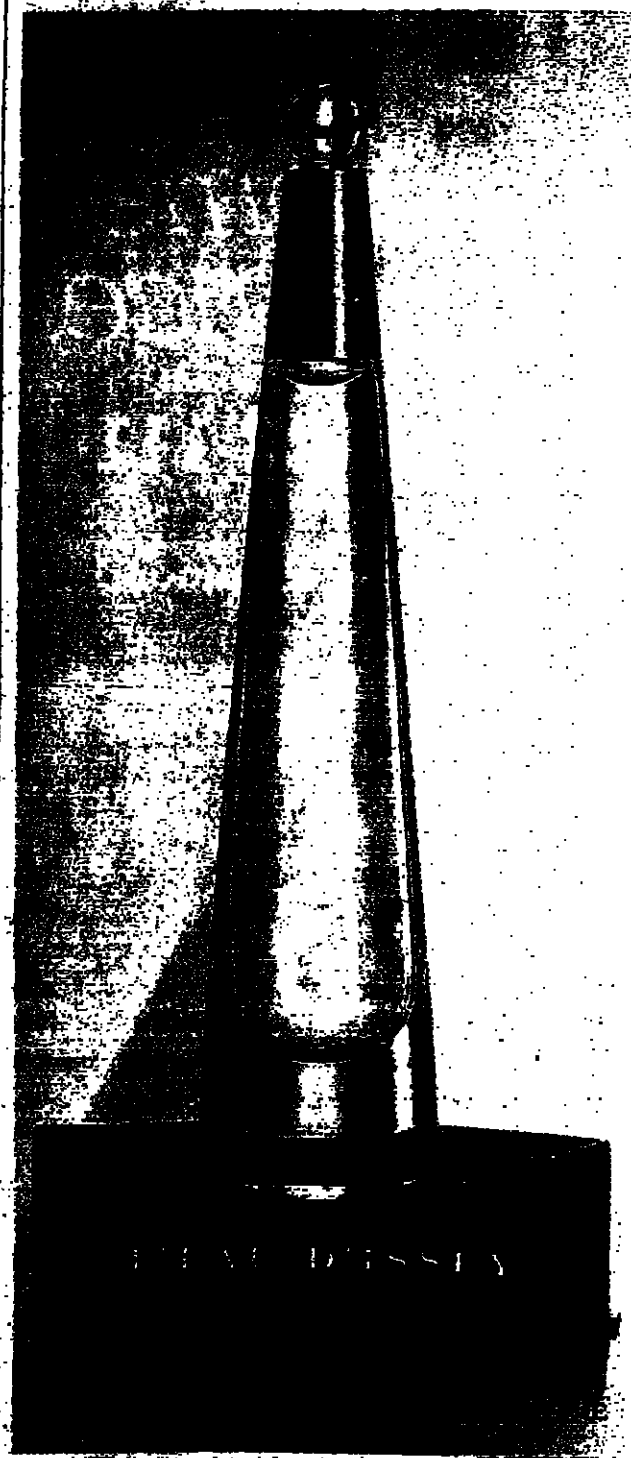
The merger will turn the colourful and controversial Evans, who presents the breakfast programme on Virgin, into a regular on his own right. Earlier this year he left BBC Radio 1's breakfast programme in a blaze of publicity because he was no longer prepared to work on

Friday mornings. Under the agreement, which was being finalised last night, a new company, as yet unnamed, will be created which will be the holding company for both Capital Productions, the Chris Evans production vehicle for radio and television, and Virgin, one of the three national commercial stations, which also holds an FM licence for the London area.

Chris Evans will own 50 per cent of the new company. Virgin will own 20 per cent, the management will hold 10 per cent and Apex, the venture capital group, will own the remaining 20 per cent. Most of the loan finance involved in the deal is being provided by Fairbairn, the French merchant bank.

For Mr Branson and Virgin the Evans deal will mean an greater involvement in television plus the funds to develop digital radio in the UK. A deal between Capital and Mr Branson seemed virtually done earlier this year in which Virgin would roll its radio licences into Capital and take a stake of around 10 per cent in the enlarged group.

Balloon challenge, page 11





## Few questions, fewer answers ... who cares?

In an unspectacular way, the House of Commons hit a new low yesterday afternoon. Little that mattered was even raised. Nothing that was raised was answered.

Ministers came to the House at a time when the future of the Royal Opera, and the select committee's corrupting report, were in the news.

So was the Lord Chancellor, quoted last week as comparing himself with Cardinal Wolsey and confessing that press freedom may be threatened by the European Court. So, also, were rumours about offshore financial arrangements from which a Treasury minister, Geoffrey Robinson, was said to benefit. Luckily, the first

Question session yesterday was with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Chris Smith answers on opera and the press and could presumably do so.

Then the minister answering for the Lord Chancellor's Department was to field Questions. Geoff Hoon could talk about press freedom too, and Cardinal Wolsey. Luckily, too, that the long, following debate on the Welsh Devolution Bill was not squeezed by any other business — so plenty of time for a statement from Geoffrey Robinson about his financial interests.

You will scarcely believe me when I report that nobody asked Mr Smith about opera; nobody asked Smith or Hoon



POLITICAL SKETCH

about press freedom; and nobody asked Hoon about the ambitions of Lord Irvine. Mr Robinson did, however, make a statement. Well ... he issued a statement. Through the Treasury press department. No questions, please.

But accountability is not dead. The Minister Without Portfolio visited the Commons to answer questions about his

Dome. He was there for four and a half minutes. He avoided every inquiry. Questions to the Culture Secretary were a pa-

thetic affair. Liberal Democrat numbers varied between two and four, their one question (friendly, from Southport's Ronnie Fearn) ending "I'm sure you have an answer".

The Tories launched an attack with some spirit. Chris Smith stonewalled, junior minister Tony Banks joked, and Tom Clarke flannelled. Nobody cared. Journalists hardly bothered to write it down. There being no Questions down about opera, none were asked. Neither John

Major nor Gerald Kaufman attended.

So the Opposition tried attacking on the National Lottery. Smith's predecessor, Virginia Bottomley (now an assiduous and surprisingly fierce backbencher), asked why Labour were funding government expenditure from lottery proceeds. They had promised not to. Smith replied that his priorities "have the backing of the people".

Smith's Tory Shadow, Francis Maude, quoted the Prime Minister as promising that the lottery would not fund things which are the Government's responsibility. Now the lottery was to fund childcare.

Smith replied that as the childcare proposals were to be

a new responsibility, lottery money was not paying for things which were the Government's responsibility, but for things which would be. The Secretary of State's arguments were specious, but few cared, and few bothered to write it down.

Then Peter Mandelson came in, burred platitudes and went away again. Finally the Lord Chancellor's Commons' lackey arrived and failed to answer questions about the Lord Chancellor.

All governments try to avoid questions. What is new is a creeping sense of disregard. It is not that the Opposition cannot land a punch. It is that nobody cares even when they do.

## Smith drops pledge to end museum charges

By NICHOLAS WATT, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government yesterday reversed its pre-election pledge to abolish admission charges for national museums and galleries. In a move that dismayed the arts world, Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, said that museums should be free to decide whether to impose charges.

David Barrie, director of the National Art Collections Fund, reacted furiously, accusing Mr Smith of backing away from Labour's long-standing commitment to free admission. "This is a bitter blow. For many people who had placed their hopes in the Labour Government it will be another disappointment," Mr Barrie said.

National galleries that allow free entry have already told the Government that, unless more money is found, they will have no option but to charge the public.

Mr Smith indicated the change in Labour policy as he published a government review of access to national museums and galleries. The Culture Secretary told the Commons that it was "up to individual institutions to make decisions about how best they see fit to carry forward the process of maximising access". He added: "The job of government is to try to make it as easy as possible for them to pursue their own course."

Conservative MPs rounded on Mr Smith for breaking an election pledge. Jack Cunningham, the then Labour heritage

spokesman, said last year that people should not be charged for visiting national museums and galleries. Mr Smith said yesterday that Labour had made clear before the general election that "we would like to see institutions do all they can to balance the books while maximising access". He insisted: "That remains our policy."

The Review of Access to National Museums and Galleries was published yesterday. Mr Smith said that charging could not be taken in isolation and that there were many other barriers to access, including the cost of travel and inflexible opening hours. Mr Smith announced a £5 million fund to improve access to museums and a consultation paper to develop a Code of Good Practice on access.

A Treasury squeeze on cash forced Labour to abandon its plans of helping Britain's leading national museum and galleries to scrap entry charges. It is understood that Mr Smith's department would have to increase its museums budget by 20 per cent in order to go ahead with this.

The climbdown is an embarrassment for Mark Fisher, the Arts Minister, who stated when he launched the charges review in June: "We do not want anybody to be charged entry to museums and galleries." Mr Fisher told a recent Museums and Galleries Commission conference that the issue was "more complicated".



The labours of Labour: Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, meets Pain, a character from the Disney film *Hercules*, at a Christmas party to benefit the charity Scope at No 11 Downing Street.

## Prisons 'need bars behind bars'

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

AFTER winning accolades for the cuisine it offers inmates, the Prison Service was urged yesterday to widen the menu by providing alcohol for some offenders.

The Prison Service's health advisory committee also suggested that the service build bars with a pub-style atmosphere to help prisoners to develop the social skills needed to prevent them going on a "bender". The bars would sell only non-alcoholic drink but Dr John O'Grady, acting chairman of the committee, was confident it would help

inmates to learn about dealing with alcohol. The committee's report said the lack of an opportunity to drink alcohol in jail was a disadvantage when devising treatment programmes. It said that without access to alcohol the success of treatment and education programmes could not be accurately assessed.

The report urged the Prison Service to experiment with "imaginative" schemes so that offenders' progress in learning how to control their drinking could be properly assessed. "Abstinence from alcohol

pay have little appeal to healthy young people or to offenders who have a behaviour problem - when drunk rather than a dependence on alcohol," the report says. "Assisting offenders to manage their intake may therefore be a more profitable intervention which takes closer account of the reality of life outside prison for young people."

The report also recommends that the Prison Service set a timetable to make the whole of the penal system, including the 135 jails, alcohol free. Six months ago the staff

bar at headquarters in London was closed but the report found that during the last three years there had been no reduction in the number of staff clubs selling alcohol.

The Prison Officers' Association said that the report was a complete waste of public money. A spokesman said: "We do a lot of therapeutic work with sex offenders but no one is suggesting they can have sex for the six months before they leave prison."

The Prison Service said that it would not be taking up the committee's recommendation.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Parents face fines for term-time holidays

Parents who take children on holiday in school term-time could find themselves in court facing fines of £1,000 in a clampdown on truancy, the Government said yesterday. Ministers said they wanted to "nip in the bud" the early signs that a child would turn into a truant, which included missing lessons as part of the family holiday.

Local authorities were especially urged to intervene in the case of parents of primary-school children who skipped lessons, to bring home to them the importance of regular school attendance. In a consultation document sent to all local authorities, governors and head teachers yesterday, ministers said schools with poor attendance levels should be targeted for mass prosecutions. "Whether to prosecute, and the precise point at which to initiate a prosecution, are matters for the judgment of individual local education authorities," said the document.

## Bosnia force 'must stay'

Britain should keep a significant fighting force in Bosnia to prevent further killing, MPs said yesterday. The Commons Defence Committee also called on the international community to look at ways of arresting indicted war criminals. A committee report said the Government must retain a force of about 5,300 troops, the size of its present commitment to the Nato-led Stabilisation Force. Nato-led troops are due to be withdrawn next June.

## McAleese ignores rules

Mary McAleese, the new Irish President, has broken Roman Catholic canon law by taking communion from a Protestant Church of Ireland minister during an ecumenical service at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin. Mrs McAleese, a Catholic, was said to be fully aware of what she was doing. Sources in the Catholic Church expressed surprise.

## 'New life' for NHS

Sweeping changes to the National Health Service will save £1 billion on unnecessary red tape within five years, Tony Blair will claim today. He will argue that today's White Paper, which proposes abolishing the internal market, and giving GPs the right to buy hospital, emergency and community services, will give the NHS "a new lease of life".

## Pole skydiver relives fall

Michael Kearns, 39, a survivor of the fatal parachute jump over the South Pole, told investigators in Chile that all the equipment was working perfectly when three of his colleagues plunged more than 8,000 ft to their deaths. They were Steve Mulholland, 36, from Seattle, Hans Rezac, 49, from Vienna, and an American who has not yet been named.

## Hardliners oppose peace

Bernadette Sands McKevitt, 39, sister of the IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands, launched the 32-County Sovereignty Committee, a group formed at a Dublin hotel the previous night to oppose a peace process that could cement Ireland's partition. The formation of republican hardline will embarrass Gerry Adams on the eve of his Downing Street visit.

## Provos 'seize' Teletubby

One of the Teletubbies has been transformed into "Laa Laa The Provo" for T-shirts being sold in west Belfast. The yellow figure's head has been superimposed onto a hand-drawn figure in a combat suit with a machinegun. The £5 T-shirts are on sale in shops and advertised in *An Phoblacht* (Republican News). The BBC is considering legal action.

## Welsh assembly plan

The Government's plans for a Welsh assembly will not be debated in detail in the Commons. Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, said that a standing committee would study the Government of Wales Bill but clauses dealing with procedures and the transfer of functions from Westminster would be considered in full in the Commons.

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### SUNDAY TIMES

This is an edited version of the letter sent by Geoffrey Robinson's lawyers to *The Sunday Times*.

We set for Geoffrey Robinson. We have been consulted in connection with an article appearing on the front page of *The Sunday Times* of 7th December 1997.

The article was entitled 'Robinson's Bermuda Tax Haven'. It went on to describe, inaccurately, a transaction involving his shares in Latchauer Ltd and the International Trust Company of Bermuda.

We are instructed that the key facts are these:

1. Mr Geoffrey Robinson has never had any money, shares or any assets in Trust or otherwise held in Bermuda.
2. Neither Mr Robinson, nor his wife nor children are or have ever been beneficiaries of any Trust in Bermuda or in any way connected with such a Trust.
3. Mr Robinson did sell shares in Latchauer Limited but he sold them in the UK and was subject to taxes on them in the normal way. There was no avoidance of UK tax.

## Robinson's lawyers launch fightback

4. Mr Robinson's statement of 29 November is wholly accurate.

The details are as follows:

5. Mr Robinson agreed to sell his shares in Latchauer Ltd for a total consideration of £262,523 to his brother Noel, Noel and his brother Peter Robinson wanted to consolidate the ownership of Latchauer Ltd, a UK registered property holding company, by buying out the minority shareholders. It was also Geoffrey Robinson's brothers who requested that Geoffrey Robinson sell to the International Trust Company of Bermuda and Maxwell Quinn (a lawyer and Trustee) as Trustees for the Emily Jane Trust, the Watch Hill Trust, These trusts were set up by Noel Robinson, Peter Robinson and Peter's daughter Emily.
6. Neither Mr Geoffrey Robinson, nor his wife, nor his children, are or ever have been beneficiaries under these Trusts or in any other way connected with them.
7. Noel, Peter and Emily Robinson were at the time of the sale by Mr Robinson (April 1991) and remain

non-resident for UK tax purposes.

8. On selling the shares, Mr Geoffrey Robinson incurred a UK capital gains tax liability which was dealt with in the normal way. There was no UK tax avoidance involved.
9. The announced changes (in 1991) to the tax treatment of offshore trusts could not have had, and did not have, any consequence for Geoffrey Robinson's tax position in relation to this transaction.
10. Save for his interest as a discretionary beneficiary of the Orion Trust, Mr Robinson has no interest in any overseas Trusts.

The article constitutes a most serious libel of Mr Robinson, most particularly in the suggestion that he used a Bermuda Trust as a tax avoidance vehicle for his own benefit.

Our client requires you, therefore, to publish an apology, correcting these false and defamatory statements (as the Code requires you to do anyway) the terms of which should be agreed with us in advance.

Further, apart from reserving all

of his rights and remedies in relation to the piece of 7 December, if you persist in publishing defamatory statements concerning our client, we will launch libel proceedings against you without further warning.

### THE OBSERVER

These are extracts from the letter sent to *The Observer* by Mr Robinson's lawyers.

We have been consulted by our client in connection with your piece of 7 December.

The article claimed that Orion Trust bought nearly £3 million of shares in TransTec after Mr Robinson became Paymaster General in May and asserted that Mr Robinson's statement of 29 November 1997, that he was linked to Orion only as a discretionary beneficiary, was untrue.

Your article then proceeded: "The Standard Accounts also reveal another type of tax efficient trust, the Geoffrey Robinson Personal Settlement. Tax experts say

this year's £3 million purchase of shares in TransTec raises serious questions about the independence of Orion's trustees ... and his ability to influence their decisions. In his statement a week ago, he indicated 'no mention of the £3 million post-election transaction'."

In fact, Mr Robinson's statement was and remains entirely accurate. First, the Geoffrey Robinson personal settlement is not "another type of tax efficient trust". It is the name of the UK blind trust created by Mr Robinson on his becoming a minister totally in line with ministerial procedures. Mr Robinson pays tax on the income and gains of the trust in the normal way.

Second, you claim that Mr Robinson's statement was untrue because he was in some way involved in the transfer of TransTec shares to the Orion trust. Your claim is unfounded.

4) Mr Robinson did not own the shares; 5) he has never owned them; 6) he does not own them now; 7) he was not involved in the transaction.

The facts, as instructed, are these:

1. In early 1997 the Trustees of the Orion Trust were informed that 2.95 million TransTec shares that should have been settled in the Trust by the non-resident settlor had not been so settled. Accordingly our client understands that a Deed of Addition was entered into on 30 April 1997 whereby the beneficial interest in those TransTec shares were transferred to the trustees of the Orion Trust. The form of transfers themselves did not take place until after May 1997 at which time the legal interest in the shares were transferred to the trustees.

2. At no time were the shares so transferred owned by Mr Robinson, nor did he have anything other than a contingent interest in them as a discretionary beneficiary in the Orion Trust.

3. The transfer of the TransTec shares to the trustees of Orion did not involve our client and were at the behest of the trustees and the non-resident settlor.

4. Our client did not appoint the trustees of the Orion Trust who are independent of him and are not controlled, or their decisions influenced, by him in any way.

You will gather therefore that the article constitutes a most serious libel of Mr Robinson.

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# Father convicted of assaulting wayward son with belt

Ten-year-old child's record of anti-social behaviour suggested sheer wickedness, reports Joanna Bale

A FATHER who hit his badly-behaved ten-year-old son with a belt was sentenced to two months' imprisonment yesterday for assault, but was released immediately because he had spent more than a month in custody.

Judge Daniel Rodwell said that he was sympathetic towards the father, who cannot be named for legal reasons, because the boy's behaviour had become completely unacceptable and suggested "sheer wickedness".

Since he had reached the age of ten, the age of criminal respons-

bility, the boy had been arrested at least twice a month for theft, burglary and criminal damage. He had been suspended from school and had become a menace at a hospital close to his home. He had been found causing trouble at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital on 88 occasions, the judge said.

The allegations included trying to enter the maternity ward, setting fire to a rubbish bin

outside the accident and emergency unit, making false 999 calls, interfering with machinery, throwing stones at visitors, threatening people with a piece of metal, roller skating on the wards, cycling inside the hospital, and shouting racial abuse. Police were called on 21 occasions.

At school he had been reported for 12 incidents of bad behaviour between June 10 and July 18, which had resulted in his

suspension. Judge Rodwell told the 40-year-old father: "I accept you have tried everything within human imagination to discipline him, short of attaching him to a ball and chain."

He said that that had included stopping the boy's pocket money, taking away computer games, taking away his bicycle, banning him from the town and stopping him from associating with certain friends. "However, on June 23

when he was brought home by police for bullying at school and messing about in the back of an ambulance, you hit him with an open hand, causing a black eye and his nose to bleed.

"Then you got a belt and belted him which caused some bruising. The normal reaction of right-minded people would be to say this was brutal and depraved behaviour which deserves a lengthy custodial sentence. But

the facts here are somewhat different. This child of yours has gone off the rails in a circumstance which one has to say suggests sheer wickedness."

He jailed the father for two months, telling him the sentence meant his immediate release as he had served a similar amount of time remanded in custody. The man had admitted assault causing actual bodily harm.

Bozzie Sheff, for the prosecution, said that the father had admitted the slap in a police interview, but had denied actually using the belt, although he may have threatened the boy with it.

Tyrone Smith, for the defence, said: "That day he had been disciplined verbally at school for assaulting another child and had walked out. He was found at the hospital sitting in the back of an ambulance playing with radio equipment. He has a total disregard for authority." He said the boy was now in care and was living with foster parents.

## Hanged boy 'had been bullied for drug money'

By SIMON DE BRUELLES

A BOY aged 14 has been found hanging in his bedroom the day after coming home from school with blood on his face and one of his eyebrows shaved off.

Jamie Evans was found dead on Saturday by his mother Janet who was told by school friends that he had been victimised for several months by a gang of larger boys. She says the bullies threatened her son and demanded money for drugs.

Mrs Evans, 52, said yesterday: "He just couldn't take it anymore. He was being constantly harassed because he was sensitive and quiet. Jamie has been hounded and for a long time was too frightened to tell us anything."

"But these bigger boys were waiting for him to take money from him to buy cannabis. These boys knew he was an

only child and that it would be easy to get money from him."

Mrs Evans, a retired shopkeeper and her husband Tony, 54, from Maesteg, Mid-Glamorgan, were yesterday trying to establish the full facts about the bullying.

Jamie, who had won many trophies for schoolboy soccer, had told his parents little about his problems at school. Mrs Evans said: "Jamie was bottling it all up and it's only now that we are finding out what he was going through. We knew he was having problems but had no idea how serious."

"Even when he came home on Friday night with blood on his face and his eyebrow shaved, he wouldn't tell us how it happened. We tried to get him to talk but he just clammed up. He was very quiet and went to bed early."

Some of Jamie's friends have told his parents that a gang of older boys had been picking on him on his way home. Mr Evans said: "It's only now we realise that our little boy was going through hell. He was terrified and this is a lesson for every parent."

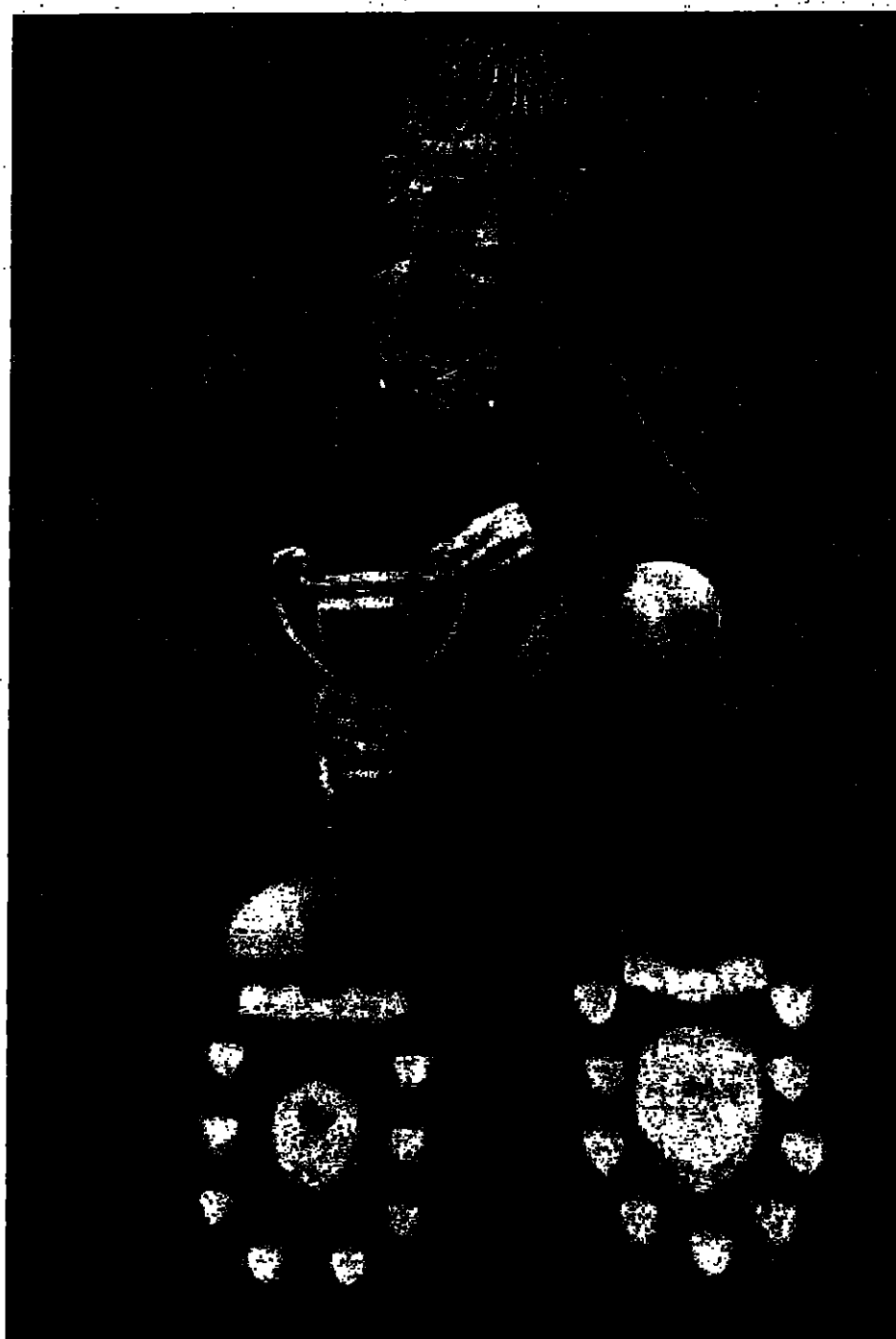
Police and school officials are investigating his death but believe the bullies were not pupils at his school.

David Painter, headteacher of the 1,200-pupil Maesteg Comprehensive School, said: "We are trying to get to grips with what has happened. The parents will be coming in to talk to us and we have got to find out what has happened. He was a normal lad. He was a small boy and it makes you think that other bigger boys may have targeted him."

"Jamie had just started his GCSE courses and should have done well in his exams. Staff had noticed a major change in him in the last few months and we had tried to discover what was behind it."

Police said a post-mortem examination was held yesterday at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, and an inquest will be held.

Jeff Jones, chairman of the school governors and leader of Bridgend County Council, last night called for a full police investigation into the bullying problem.



Jamie with some of his soccer trophies. He told his parents little of his problems.

## Man died as police watched killer's house

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A SUSPECTED sex offender murdered a casual homosexual lover while he was under surveillance by police, a court was told yesterday.

Police believed that Mikhail Gallatinov was planning to murder another homosexual the following day. But while they watched his home in Moston, Manchester, from a distance, Gallatinov, 28, handcuffed, bound and then strangled Adrian Kaminsky, 28.

He took photographs of his victim before and after his death on a Polaroid camera supplied by an undercover officer posing as a friend, Manchester Crown Court was told.

Peter Openshaw, QC, for the prosecution, said: "The officers had no means of knowing what was going on inside the house. They had no reason, indeed no right, to enter the house. Even if they had forced their way in they would have achieved nothing."

The day after the murder Gallatinov's Nissan Micra was stopped by police on the M62 on his way to a disused quarry near Hull to dispose of the body. Officers found it in the boot.

Mr Openshaw said Gallatinov who denies murder, came to the attention of the police as a possible sex offender. He was introduced to an undercover officer who feigned an interest in paedophile material. In November last year, Gallatinov

told the officer, he knew as "Steve" that he was planning a "wet job" — gangland parlance for a killing.

He said he was going to lure his victim to Hull and kill him in an isolated spot. His victim would be a homosexual he felt had slighted him, whom he had met as part of his work for a gay telephone chatline.

Gallatinov boasted that he would take pictures to prove he had committed murder and the detective later supplied the camera. He also offered to supply him with a Ford Fiesta, telling Gallatinov he would be unwise to drive his own car because of the risk of forensic evidence being found.

Mr Openshaw said: "At the time it was not so clear it was a real plan, or if it was, the victim was not identified." Mr Openshaw said a police operation had been arranged to monitor Gallatinov's trip to Hull on the expected day and to intervene when Gallatinov tried to kill his passenger.

But as police watched the house the night before, "Steve" received a phone call from Gallatinov telling him he wanted to bring the murder forward because the intended victim was in his home. The detective told Gallatinov he could not have the car until the next day and that he should do nothing to change his original plan. However, Gallatinov proceeded to strangle Kaminsky with a dressing gown cord.

The trial continues today.

## Woman is charged over baby's abduction

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A MOTHER of three was remanded in custody for a week yesterday charged with the abduction of baby Karl Hawthorne, Denise Giddings, 33, from Basildon, Essex, bowed her head and wept throughout the 35-minute hearing and was led handcuffed from court.

Her mother, Patricia Longley, and sister, Tina Carpenter, were comforted by her father, Donald, and estranged husband, Leslie Giddings.

Mrs Giddings is accused of abducting Karl, daughter of Tanya and Karl Hawthorne, from the maternity unit at Basildon General Hospital on Friday afternoon when she was three hours old.

Cyrus Shroff, for the prosecution, urged that Mrs Giddings remain in custody. Clare Wade, for the defence argued that Mrs Giddings would stay at a fixed address outside Basildon. However, after a 45-minute adjournment, Nicola Moulds, the magistrate, remanded Mrs Giddings in custody for seven days. Outside court, Barry Spanjar, solicitor for Mrs Giddings, said he would appeal for bail to be granted.

"She is very grateful Karl is unharmed and we are all relieved this is over without any real damage being done."

Karl and her mother are expected to be discharged from hospital tomorrow.

## Landlord jailed over boiler that gassed student

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A LANDLORD and a workman were jailed yesterday after admitting responsibility for the death of a student tenant killed by poisonous fumes from a faulty gas boiler.

Peter Owen, 40, who received a two-year sentence, and plumber Stuart Royle, 46, who was sentenced to 18 months, are believed to be the first to receive custodial sentences in a case of this kind.

They had pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of Sonja Hyams, 20, a biology and biochemistry undergraduate, who was found dead in the bathroom of her rented home near Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, in November last year.

She had been killed by toxic fumes from the upstairs gas boiler, which also left four of her housemates needing hospital treatment.

Stafford Crown Court was told, Owen had falsely told the students he had a gas safety certificate.

Jailing the two men, Judge Clive Tayler said that, while they were not callous, they were guilty of gross negligence and he had no choice but to impose a custodial sentence because of the gravity of the consequences of their actions.

Jonathan Gosling, for the prosecution, had told the court that Miss Hyams, from Hartley Wintney in Hampshire, was a second year student at Keele University

and had found the rented house through her university register of landlords.

Together with her friends she had checked with Owen that he had a gas safety certificate. "He told them falsely that there was, but in truth there never was one," Mr Gosling said.

In fact, the fire in the living room and the upstairs boiler had both been fitted by Royle, who was qualified only as a plumber under the City and Guilds scheme and had no formal qualification. Neither fire nor boiler had adequate ventilation in the rooms and had not been serviced since they were installed. A test revealed that the level of carbon monoxide was above the safety level.



Sonja Hyams killed by poisonous fumes

## Police trio held over missing cannabis

By STEWART TENDLER  
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A SCOTLAND YARD detective and two former Flying Squad officers were arrested yesterday over allegations involving the disappearance of cannabis worth £250,000 seized in a police raid.

All three officers served in an East London unit of the Flying Squad. The two former officers retired early on ill-health pensions. They were arrested early yesterday by undercover officers from the complaints investigation bureau.

The investigators are examining allegations that between 50 and 100 kilos of cannabis were taken from a home in east London last week. It is claimed that the drugs, which should have been stored in a secure place, were later found to be missing.

Detective Constable Terry McGuinness, 39, was arrested at his Essex home after completing a night shift at Limehouse police station. He has spent much of his career in East London.

The two former officers are in their 40s and served with DC McGuinness at a Flying Squad office in North East London. They are Keith Green, a Detective Sergeant who retired early in June last year, and Kevin Garner, Detective Constable who retired in August this year.

## Drinking 'does little harm to liver'

By IAN MURRAY  
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THERE is little evidence that heavy drinkers are much more prone to die from liver disease and cirrhosis than those who stick to health and safety guidelines, according to two studies published today. They show that only about one person in 20 who drinks more than 70 units a week — against a recommended level of 21 units for men and 14 for women — develops liver disease as a result.

The research, published in *Gut*, a specialist magazine, was carried out in Copenhagen and Italy. According to the

Italian research, those who consume no more than three drinks a day run only a 0.15 per cent risk of cirrhosis. This rises to 1 per cent among those who have six drinks a day, to 2 per cent among those who down no drinks a day, to 5 per cent among those on 12 drinks a day and to 6 per cent above that level. The Copenhagen research showed that only 7 per cent of those drinking more than 70 drinks a week had cirrhosis and only 19 per cent had any sign of liver disease.

"We have known for a long time that if you have 20 alcoholics you only get one with liver disease," said Chris Day, who runs the centre for liver research at Newcastle University, and who wrote the

magazine's commentary on the research. "According to government figures there are about two million heavy drinkers in Britain, yet there are only 2,500 deaths a year from liver disease. On that evidence there must be hundreds of thousands of people out there with liver disease who we don't know about and who are not becoming so ill we find out about them."

"These findings suggest that these illnesses have more to do with genes than anything else. As with diabetes it looks as though there are a combination of genes that make someone prone to the illness. Drinking too much alcohol increases the risk, but not by much. There is obviously a huge genetic component."

## Nursery teaching 'provides bad start'

By DAVID CHARTER

NURSERY education for all four-year-olds will create more low achievers and greater social division, a senior Labour figure claimed yesterday.

Evidence from European countries where pupils outperform British youngsters showed that children thrive on a kindergarten approach which waited until the age of six before introducing reading, writing and mathematics.

The comments came at a meeting of the Fabian Society yesterday, held under rules that forbid a speaker being identified. The politician said unless there was a "complete rethink", forcing children to start the three Rs at four would hold back many in later life.

The speaker also criticised ministers for failing to end the "apartheid" of independent schools.

## British schools face plague of head lice

The louse has always stayed a jump ahead, but new factors have made matters worse, reports Robin Young

BRITAIN is facing a plague of head lice as the parasites become increasingly immune to shampoos and lotions designed to kill them.

The number of head lice treatments sold doubled from three million in 1990-91 to six million in 1994-95. It is estimated that the nation is spending more than £14.5 million a year fighting lice, but still losing the battle.

The Department of Health, while maintaining that there is no evidence of an epidemic, concedes that lice infestations are "extremely common". The department has sent out a million leaflets to parents, teachers and health authorities advocating methods of combating head lice.

One is the bug-busting technique known as "wet combing", in which children's hair is shampooed and made slippery with applications of conditioner. The hair is painstakingly and thoroughly combed from the roots, removing the lice by wiping the comb after every stroke.

The second method depends on applications of pesticide lotions, but there has been

increasing concern that these raise health risks of their own. More than a million bottles of shampoo containing the organophosphate malathion are sold by pharmacists every year, but new research says that repeated use of malathion could lead to its absorption into the bloodstream, causing damage to the nervous system. Other preparations use carbaryl, available on prescription, or pyrethroid insecticides as active components.

In any case, head lice have always been notoriously able to survive all pesticide treatments. The leading lotion changes its formulation annually, hoping to keep one jump ahead of the resilient nits, but any lice or eggs which survive a treatment are able to start building immunity.

The louse is no respecter of class. Until the 1960s, head lice mainly affected the inner-city

working classes, but increasing travel and social communication enabled lice to crawl over the social barriers.

Jan Burgess, deputy director of the Medical Entomology Centre in Cambridgeshire, says the lice have been helped because people lead busier lives nowadays. "People take less time checking their children's hair, and since grooming is diminishing, head lice are able to flourish," he said. "Less than 50 per cent of households even own a comb."

Cuts in school nursing services have made problems worse, and it is estimated that although from the mid-1980s until 1991 Britain had one of the lowest rates of infestation in the world, lice are making a widespread return, infecting as many as one in ten children.

Schools have taken to suggesting their own novel

treatments. Some urge parents to soak their children's hair with neat vodka or vinegar, supposedly in hopes of picking the nits to death.

One school in Kensington, West London, recently wrote to parents reminding them that even if they checked all resident members of the family carefully, there could still be an hitherto overlooked risk when granny came to stay. Others have taken to aromatherapy, and the use of herbal remedies such as Australian tea tree oil.

Head lice (*pediculus humanus capitis*) are small wingless insects that feed on human blood and are transmitted by physical contact. Nits are the eggs, laid on hair close to the scalp. They hatch in seven days. The worst likely effects are allergic reactions or impetigo.

Joanna Ibarra, founder of the charity Community Hygiene Concern, said yesterday: "It is quite clear that the problem of head lice is being mismanaged. We are definitely facing an epidemic. Our helpline is taking huge numbers of call from desperate parents."



Alexandra Little and Raj Carr with a picture of their sister Camilla and Jon James

## Families plead for Chechnya kidnap victims

By PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

THE families of two British charity workers kidnapped by bandits in Chechnya five months ago are today launching a campaign to raise awareness of their plight.

The Foreign Office had previously advised the families not to draw too much media attention to the situation as this might lead the kidnappers to increase their demands, but is supporting the change of approach. This afternoon the Foreign Office minister Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean and the former Beirut hostages Terry Waite and John McCarthy will be among those attending a service at St James's, Piccadilly, where Miss Carr and Mr James, who were kidnapped from their house in Grozny on July 4, Michael Penrose, a charity worker held hostage in Chechnya for a month in July 1996, will also be present.

Before the service, the families of the hostages will announce their campaign, Support for Camilla and Jon, which will raise money to press for their release. Any surplus money raised will go to the Little Star Centre in Grozny, a rehabilitation centre for children traumatised by the recent war in the breakaway Russian republic, where Miss Carr and Mr James had been working.

Miss Carr's sister, Alexandra Little said: "We haven't got a clue who has taken them. Now Christmas is coming and it seemed like time to try with this campaign. The Foreign Office is right behind us."

Miss Carr, 39, and Mr James, 37, left for Chechnya in April this year. Both are experienced charity workers and they took up jobs at the Little Star Centre which had been set up by the Centre for Peacemaking and Community Development.

At 2am on July 4, armed and masked men broke into their house and overpowered the bodyguards. They were bundled into a car.

Desperately little has been heard. There have been uncorroborated ransom demands that have evaporated as swiftly as they appeared. In September, mysterious intermediaries contacted the Chechen Government to confirm the couple were still alive. Since then, nothing has been heard.

A profitable market in kidnapping sprung up in Chechnya following the recent war there between separatists and the Russian Federation.

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# Expensive trainers 'more likely to hurt feet'

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

RUNNERS wearing expensive trainers rather than cheaper brands are much more likely to suffer foot injuries, because they believe the claims made in advertisements, according to scientists.

The discovery was made during a follow-up of research on injuries among 5,000 people taking part in a 16-kilometre race at Berne, in Switzerland. Those wearing expensive trainers were more than twice as likely to injure their feet than runners wearing less expensive makes.

The research, published today, says exaggerated advertising claims about the safety of the more costly brand names could be to blame.

The researchers found also that injury levels were higher among athletes who had a brand loyalty than among those with no preference. That suggested the trainers were used differently in relation to expectations raised through advertising.

The report, published in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, says that no athletic footwear, regardless of manufacturer or price, had ever been shown to protect well against injuries and it was therefore deceptive for advertisements to say they afforded good protection.

"Expensive footwear is subject to extremely deceptive advertising," it says. "It is advertised to improve protection over cheaper products by incorporating new features

that protect, and more advanced safety technology, yet epidemiological data indicate that users of more expensive shoes are injured more frequently."

Expensive shoes account for 123 per cent greater frequency of injury than the lowest-cost models, regardless of manufacturer, after correcting for previous injury, training mileage and sex.

The report says that the higher injury rate suggests that the impact of the foot on the ground is greater when expensive shoes are worn "and we can think of nothing other than the effect of advertising that might account for it."

To discover why athletes in expensive shoes suffered more injuries, researchers from McGill University in Montreal took a random sample of 45 healthy men with an average age of 31. They were required to step down on a platform measuring the impact of their foot. The platform was covered for three tests in an identical 2.5cm-thick layer of polymer material that was made to appear different. The men were told that one surface had superior impact absorption and that a second had poor absorption and high injury risk. A third gave neutral information. In a fourth test there was no covering. The research showed that impact was greatest with the deceptive message, lighter with the warning message and lightest with the bare platform.



Peelers at work in Tesco's factory at Fife yesterday. They have 120,000 bags of sprouts to prepare by Christmas

# Only one million sprouts to go until Christmas

By ROBIN YOUNG

CHRISTMAS lunch is not complete without them. But peeling the brussel sprouts is a task that few relish.

Enter a team of 200 peelers at Tesco, which has more than a million sprouts to peel between now and December 25. The group was selected from several hundred applicants, and will produce 120,000 bags of ready-peeled sprouts at Tesco's factory in Fife, central Scotland.

Stan Burns, Tesco's vegetable buyer, said that sprout peeling was a skilful job. "Cut too low and only the base comes off," he said, "but cut too high and half the useful sprout may go to waste. The cut has to be as accurate as a surgeon's incision but at ten times the speed."

The store's reigning speed champion is Julie Wight, who can peel 33½ lbs of sprouts in an hour. That is equivalent to preparing one sprout every five seconds. Ms Wight, 26, a former hairdresser, attributes her success to small hands and nimble fingers. "Giving a



Each sprout takes five to ten seconds to peel

sprout a short back and sides is a question of good hand and eye co-ordination," she said. "Women have more dexterity than men, and having small hands also helps."

Most peelers work at only half her speed, but all are on piece-work rates which give every incentive to fill their buckets as quickly as quality control will allow. Ms Wight reckons to earn up to £13 an hour for her work, but most of her colleagues are lucky to manage £6.

# Leaky goggles can blind swimmers

By OUR MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

SWIMMERS may suffer serious eye damage if they use faulty goggles. The danger has been discovered by a husband and wife, both doctors, whose seven-year-old daughter was injured while using goggles.

The problem is caused by overtightening the strap to stop poor-quality goggles from leaking. This increases the pressure on soft tissues round the eye. When the goggles are pulled away, the suction causes bruising and soreness of the eye.

Even when not causing blindness, the condition may cause serious and long-lasting eye damage. Nigel and

Sheena Jowett, of Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, noticed their daughter had returned from a swimming lesson with a blood-filled rash on her left eyelid and a sore right eye. They found that the right eyepiece of her goggles had leaked, so she had tightened the strap and occasionally pulled the goggles away to empty out water.

They report in today's *Postgraduate Medical Journal* that they cured their daughter within 24 hours by applying cold compresses, but later discovered many previous reports of injuries linked to goggles.

# Bulgaria in Crisis

Report by Times Readers

## LEFT TO FREEZE

Yordan, 1½, already malnourished could die from cold and hunger this winter unless aid reaches him now. With temperatures plummeting to -15°C Yordan's scant clothing and no shoes offer him little protection from the bitter cold and there is no money to heat his orphanage. There are 37,000 places in Bulgaria's orphanages.



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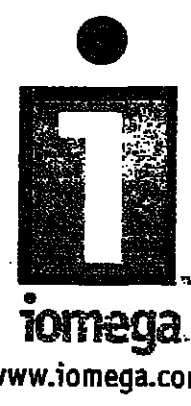


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# Myra Hindley contests 'life means life' ruling

MYRA HINDLEY has "served her time" and been punished for the crimes she committed, and the decision that she must die in prison is wrong in law, the High Court was told yesterday.

Lawyers for the Moors murderer said she had been unlawfully singled out for such treatment because of the notoriety of the case. Hindley, 55, currently in Durham jail, is challenging decisions by successive Home Secretaries that "life means life".

Edward Fitzgerald, her QC, told the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, that of 24 "whole life" cases, this was the only one in which the offender was not the killer. "One of the suspicions one harbours is that this applicant may have been singled out because of her particular notoriety," he said.

Hindley and her accomplice Ian Brady, whose health has broken down, are the only prisoners serving life to have had their tariff increased. Rosemary West is the only other woman to be given a whole life tariff.

Hindley has served 31 years since she was jailed with Ian Brady in 1966 for murdering Lesley Ann Downey, 10, and Edward Evans, 17. Ten years ago she confessed to two more killings.

In 1982, Lord Lane, who was then Lord Chief Justice, advised that she serve not less than 25 years but in 1985 Lord Bingham, then Home Secretary, fixed the minimum term at 30 years for Hindley and 40

Lawyers say Brady's 'evil influence'

corrupted Hindley and she merits

her freedom. Richard Ford reports

years for Brady. A whole life tariff was imposed on Hindley in 1990 by David Waddington, then Home Secretary, a decision confirmed by Michael Howard and Jack Straw.

Mr Fitzgerald said: "As a matter of proportionality, the 30 years originally fixed by Lord Bingham, and now served in full, is sufficient to meet the requirements of retribution and deterrence in her case."

Mr Fitzgerald said that the whole life tariff failed to differentiate between the culpability of Hindley and her co-defendant in spite of the clear distinction drawn by the courts and the police.

He argued that she was less wicked and responsible for the

killings than Brady and had acted throughout under the influence of his threats and intimidation.

He said that at the trial at Chester Crown Court, the prosecution stated that Hindley had been indoctrinated by Brady and that he had introduced her to corrupting literature and the idea of murder, and that he had initiated and planned their crimes.

He added: "The jury reflected the view that Myra Hindley became involved as a secondary party, after Brady had started the killings, by acquitting her of the first of the murders, that of John Kilbride. Though she has subsequently — and to her credit

— admitted her part in the prelude to John Kilbride's death, the jury's verdict does reflect the wider reality that Brady was the initiator of all the crimes."

He said that in Hindley's confession to two other killings in 1987, she also disclosed the extent of her indoctrination by Brady. The confessions were made "as part of a genuine attempt to put the record straight". There was, he said, clear evidence of her remorse.

Mr Fitzgerald said there was evidence that she had tried to extricate herself, but she was involved with a "homicidal maniac", who had threatened to kill her and her relatives, and whose "threats therefore have to be taken seriously". Once he had threatened her to frighten her and had told her that "she would end up in the grave if she did not co-operate".

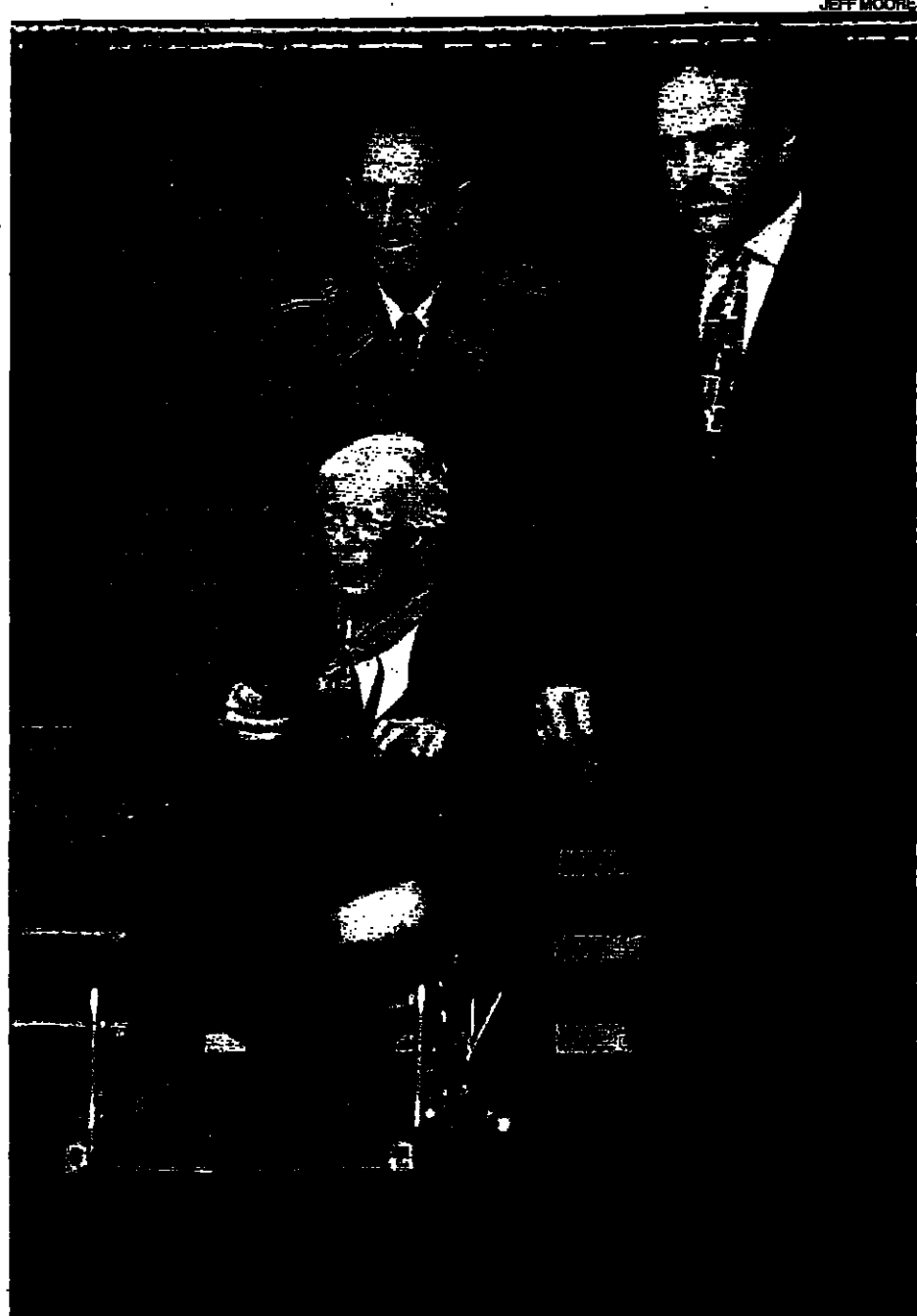
Hindley was not in court but Lord Longford, who has campaigned for her release, was present. There were also relatives of the victims.

Ann West, the 68-year-old mother of Lesley Ann Downey, who is in wheelchair, suffering from cancer, said outside court: "I started this 30 years ago and I will be in my grave by Christmas. But I'm still going on."

The hearing continues. Joe Mounsey, a detective with the Lancashire force who played a leading part in the hunt for Brady and Hindley, has died aged 73 at his home in Preston.



Ian Brady, whose victims with Myra Hindley included ten-year-old Lesley Ann Downey



Ann West, mother of Lesley Ann Downey, outside the High Court yesterday

## Faster system to tackle solicitors' mistakes

By Frances Gibb

FASTER procedures and financial penalties to deal with increasing complaints against solicitors were announced yesterday by the newly-formed Office for the Supervision of Solicitors.

However, the office's first press conference and launch of its annual report was undermined when Martin Mears, the former Law Society president, attacked the new body as no more than a "cosmetic" change. It had the same attitude and culture — and many of the same staff — as the old, discredited Solicitors' Complaints Bureau and people were equally dissatisfied with its workings, he said.

Mr Mears, who described the annual report as "a hypocritical PR document", accused the office of failing to publish details of research which showed 85 per cent of respondents did not think their complaint had been satisfactorily resolved. Instead, he said, the annual report was full of platitudes about tackling backlogs, implementing reforms and developing new technology.

Paul Pharoah, chairman of the new body's compliance and supervision committee, said that Mr Mears's accusations were "wholly wrong" and added that solicitors would not welcome attempts to "destabilise" the office before it had a chance to prove itself.

He announced two improvements after new figures showed that the office had received 22,305 complaints during 1996-97, a 7 per cent rise on the previous year. From January 1, most complaints which are not resolved through conciliation will not have to wait for several months pending a full investigation but will be dealt with under a simplified procedure within two weeks.

Solicitors will face financial penalties of up to £1,000 if they do not attempt to handle clients' complaints themselves. This is an attempt to ensure that all law firms have formal complaints procedures, and that where possible complaints are tackled at source.

Peter Ross, its director, admitted that delays of several months in the handling of complaints which required full investigation were much too long and had still to be tackled. But other initiatives were bearing fruit, including the "client care" guide for solicitors, "client care surgeries" at the Law Society headquarters at Chancery Lane — soon to be extended to regional offices — and a solicitors' helpline.

## Judges defended over rape trials

By Our Legal Correspondent

THE Court of Appeal judge who is in charge of training the judiciary has delivered a robust defence of judges' handling of rape and child abuse cases.

In an interview with *The Times*, Lord Justice Henry says that despite criticisms of judges, jail sentences for rape and attempted rape have doubled during the past 12 years. The rise in jail terms, from an average length of 41.2 months in 1984 to 79.5 months in 1996 (excluding life sentences), demonstrated that judges treat rape seriously, he said.

Training for the handling of rape trials was included in refresher courses and only the most experienced judges were allowed to take such cases. "We have a lot of training in the various aspects of rape and our equal treatment courses also cover anyone seen to be disadvantaged before the courts." The Judi-

cial Studies Board, which publishes its annual report tomorrow, supervises training for full-time and part-time judges and supervises training for the magistracy.

Judges are regularly criticised for their handling of rape trials. Lord Justice Henry said that judges were on public view, with every word recorded on the transcript. Yet often their remarks were quoted out of context.

He said there was a need for better liaison between court centres and the judiciary so that the media had a duty press officer at every court and could check back.

A programme of training seminars has been set up to deal with child abuse cases. Two have been held and 139 judges have taken part. The courses were oversubscribed and a third is planned.

Law, page 39

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# MP turns detective to clear name in car case

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

ANN CLWYD, the Labour MP, was cleared yesterday of driving through a red light after she turned detective to challenge police testimony.

Mrs Clwyd, armed with a dossier of photographs she had taken, persuaded magistrates that two officers were wrong when they said they could see the traffic lights from their patrol car.

Mrs Clwyd, 60, MP for Cynon Valley in South Wales, had faced a fine of £40 after she was reported for jumping the light as she returned to Cardiff from Westminster in February. She was a mile from home when, at 11pm, she was accused of failing to stop at a busy junction.

WPC Karen Agnew told Cardiff magistrates: "I had a clear and uninterrupted view of the traffic light. I saw Mrs Clwyd's car go through the lights on red. There was nothing at all to cloud my view."

WPC Agnew stopped the MP's car and told her she had committed an offence that could be dealt with by a fixed

penalty. Mrs Clwyd asked how much the fine would be and was told £40.

Paul Warren, defending Mrs Clwyd, produced four 12in x 16in colour photographs taken by her at the junction. During his cross-examination of WPC Agnew, he drew her attention to the black tubes that projected from each of the traffic lights. He said that the angle of the traffic lights and the tubes would have prevented the WPC seeing the colour of the lights. WPC Agnew said: "You can still see the

lights, especially in the darkness."

PC John James, a passenger on the traffic patrol, said that he, too, had a clear view of the traffic lights as Mrs Clwyd drove through the crossroads at Llandaff, Cardiff.

Mrs Clwyd told the court: "As I went through the traffic light it was on green, but three quarters of the way across the junction they changed to amber. When the policeman stopped me and told me what I'd done, I said: 'Did I?' in disbelief. I decided to go back

to take photographs from the position the panda car was parked. From that position you cannot see the lights. They are turned away from you."

Cross-examined about why she asked how much the fine would be, she said: "There are circumstances sometimes when it's easier to pay up than argue. There has been a lot of adverse publicity for anyone in public life to come and argue this out."

Richard Cox, the stipendiary magistrate, said: "This is a case where everyone has given their evidence truthfully. On the one hand, the officers tell me they clearly saw the red light and on the other hand, the defendant says that cannot be the case. At the end of the day, there is an element of doubt. We must give the benefit of that doubt to Mrs Clwyd."

Mrs Clwyd said she would be lodging a complaint with the Police Complaints Authority and, if necessary, would take the matter to the Home Secretary and the Attorney-General.

## Eubank is fined £240

CHRIS EUBANK, the boxer, was fined £240 with three penalty points for failing to stop at a red light yesterday.

Eubank, 31, pleaded guilty by letter to failing to stop at a junction in his home town of Hove, East Sussex, in July. The former world super middleweight champion told Brighton magistrates he was "extremely surprised" to be stopped by police and had not

thought the light was red at the time. But he accepted, "in hindsight", that it must have been.

Five years ago Eubank was convicted of careless driving following a crash in which a roadside worker was killed. Three months later he was ordered to pay £1,000 in fines and costs after being convicted of careless driving for driving through a red light.



Ann Clwyd leaving Cardiff Magistrates' Court after the hearing yesterday

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Man jailed for killing wife with a hammer

A pensioner who killed his elderly sick wife with a hammer because he could no longer bear to watch her crying out in pain was yesterday sentenced to 18 months by Reading Crown Court. However, Gordon Taylor, 70, who has been in custody since March, is expected to be released within days. He denied murder but admitted manslaughter.

## £1.8m damages

Zeta Palmer, 28, of Wolverhampton has been awarded £1.85 million by the High Court after an anaesthetist's mistake during an operation left her partly paralysed for life. Wolverhampton Health Authority admitted liability.

## Injury award

A mental patient who severely injured herself jumping from the eighth floor of a hospital has been awarded £145,000 by the High Court. Maxine Griggs, 38, of Letchworth, had accused North Hertfordshire NHS Trust of negligence.

## Softer line

Phone users who do not pay their bills will be allowed to receive incoming calls instead of being cut off. Ofel, the industry watchdog, said the new agreement with phone companies should reduce disconnections for debt.

## Girl found

A 13-year-old girl from Essex who went missing last month has been found in a village near Aberdeen. Sally Claydon, of Harlow, was thought to have run off with a 47-year-old man she met on holiday. A man has been arrested.

## BBC libel defeat

Peter Laister, the former chairman of Maxwell Communications Corporation, received libel damages from the BBC over a suggestion he had blotted out his signature on a document authorising the disposal of £56 million.

## Airport protest

Nine protesters against the expansion of Manchester airport chained themselves together in a departure lounge yesterday. Another ten scaled an elevated walkway. Flights were not affected.

### CORRECTION

James Fiffeld is president and chief operating officer of EMI Music worldwide; Sir Colin Southgate's salary for the year ended March 31, 1997, was £799,100 (article, November 29).

## Rally car instructor jailed over road death

By PAUL WILKINSON

A MOTOR sports instructor whose bad driving caused the death of a young woman was jailed for 12 months yesterday.

A court was told that Andrew Spence, 30, had been late for a meeting with business clients he was due to take on a day out when he forced the woman's vehicle off the road as he overtook a line of traffic. He is one of six people coached by the British Association of Rally Schools to NVQ standard in motor sports instruction.

As he pulled out on the A66 in Co Durham in October last year, a car driven by Marsha Smith came towards him. Miss Smith, 23, swerved to avoid him but lost control and smashed head-on into two other vehicles. She was thrown from her overturned car and died instantly.

Spence, from Acomb, near York, failed to stop, and later said he had not seen any crash.

He appeared yesterday at Newcastle Crown Court for sentence after his conviction for causing death by dangerous driving. Judge Maurice Carr, who banned him from driving for two years, said that Spence had shown aggression.

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# Lost girls survive night on moor by sticking to rules

By SIMON DE BRUKELLES

SIX teenage girls who became lost on Dartmoor during a school hike were reunited with their families yesterday and told how they survived by following safety instructions to the letter.

As soon as it got dark on Sunday, the girls, who carried full survival equipment, set up camp in a forest. They kept their spirits up in the cold and wet by telling jokes about their teachers as more than 140 searchers and two helicopters looked for them.

The five 14-year-olds and one 15-year-old, from Torpoint School, southeast Cornwall, had become lost in thick fog just 50 yards from their first checkpoint during the 12-mile walk. Visibility was down to 50 ft and although the girls were briefly spotted by a teacher stationed at the checkpoint, the mist closed in and they never reached it.

Members of the Dartmoor

Rescue Group joined police and units from the Royal Marines but in the end the girls turned up at a farm near Postbridge. The girls, who were picked up by an RAF Sea King, said they had huddled together for warmth after deciding to set up camp.

Caroline Barker said: "We



A search dog and its handler join the hunt

were in sight of our first tent but the mists came down and we don't know what went wrong. We walked down a path which turned out to be a dead end. We thought — just over this hill and we'll be there. When it got completely dark, it was a bit worrying.

"We stopped and put the tent up and heard helicopters coming over. So we did the flashing with the torch, the recognised emergency signal, and we blew our whistles but nobody seemed to hear us.

"It was fairly cold. We shared our clothes and kept each other warm. It was very windy, and that kept waking us up."

Charlotte Clare said: "It was freezing and horrible and we all had to huddle together in our sleeping bags for warmth. It was quite frightening out there on the moor in the dark.

But she added: "This won't put us off going back on the



Four of the schoolgirls who turned up after becoming lost. Caroline Baker, left, Becky Goodman, Charlotte Clare, and Debbie Curran

moor. We did what we were taught and we have come through all right."

Keith Lesueur, a Torpoint School teacher, said that the school and the girls' parents were delighted that the girls were back, safe and well. "I am pleased they followed their training and found their own

way off the moor. They followed their instructions and contingency plans. We shall see if there are any lessons we need to draw but I am sure we will continue to use adventure training of this sort."

The Dartmoor Rescue Group used trained tracker dogs in the search. The dogs,

usually collies, are trained to sniff out people who may be sheltering in undergrowth.

The group had set out on the hike from Holmings Beam near Princetown on Sunday morning as part of their training for the Ten Tors Challenge, a two-day orienteering expedition. They were

one of seven teams of six pupils. Three teachers were accompanying other teams.

Moira Warwick, the deputy head, said that although the girls were unsupervised, the leader of the small group had previously participated in the Ten Tors expedition and was an experienced walker. "The

girls are well-equipped to handle any emergency," she said.

Roy Bright, the headmaster, was satisfied that the girls had followed safety training and had acted responsibly. "I would be happy to let them out again," he said. "You've got to give these youngsters some sort of opportunity for adventure."

## Plan to cut accidents targets vandals

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

SAFETY experts are drawing up plans to combat railway vandalism with the biggest package of crime-prevention measures to be introduced in the rail industry.

The moves — including closed-circuit television, regular patrols by railway staff, tougher fencing and better lighting — face strong resistance from the privatised industry, worried about having to pay for "over-zealous" attempts to force through changes that may not be effective.

Huge increases in the number of train accidents caused by vandals have prompted calls for the industry to do more to tighten security at stations, on trains and along some sections of track.

More than half of the 1,753 train accidents last year were caused by "malicious action" and senior rail figures believe that inspectors are planning to mount a high-profile campaign to try to shame train firms into spending money on "an expensive wish-list of unproven measures". Several say privately they will resist any such moves unless there is proof they will bring substantial improvements.

## Rail users signal record complaints

By A CORRESPONDENT

COMPLAINTS by rail passengers reached record levels during the summer. About 4,500 complaints were received by the Central Rail User's Consultative Committee, a rise of 96 per cent on the same period last year.

Information at stations and from national telephone inquiry bureaux attracted most complaints, followed by reliability, overcrowding, train cleanliness, suitability of service and punctuality. Full details are due to be released tomorrow but it is understood that dissatisfaction covers rail companies throughout Britain.

A year ago, the committee reported a fall in complaints over six consecutive months and the year ending March 1997 saw the first fall in more than 15 years. But the figures for July to September this year are the highest on record.

Paul Hadley, the committee's national director, said: "The increase is evidence of just how wide the gulf is becoming between passengers' expectations and operators' performance. The committee wants to see this significantly reduced, and quickly."

'When Barclays got involved, the prefects started picking on the younger pupils'

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# Blair launches One Nation taskforce

Valerie Elliott on the fight against poverty, truancy and other ills that keep people on the fringe of society

TONY BLAIR launched his Social Exclusion Unit yesterday with a brief to devise policies to help the disadvantaged within two years.

The unit includes a mix of civil servants and professionals with experience of working with people excluded from mainstream society by poverty, poor schooling and unemployment. They will work alongside policy advisers in the Cabinet Office.

Yesterday Mr Blair hailed the unit as a demonstration of the Government's new approach to policymaking in Whitehall. He wants it to work across the usually rigid departmental boundaries. In a speech at Stockwell Park School, in a deprived area of South London, he said: "We don't believe that Whitehall knows best. We need practical experience. We need the insights of people who have worked at the sharp end."

He said that the unit would work with communities engaged in solving their own problems, and would listen to the "views of the socially excluded themselves".

The unit, which will report to him, will be led by Moira Wallace,

36, a former economic affairs private secretary to John Major and Mr Blair at Number 10. Government officials describe the Treasury high-flyer as "full of ideas". The priority will be policies to avoid truancy and school exclusions; to help households with no one in employment; and to help homeless people who are sleeping rough.

Mr Blair said yesterday: "Britain cannot be a strong community, cannot be one nation, when there are so many families experiencing a third generation of unemployment, when so many pensioners live on crime-ridden housing estates and are afraid to go out, when thousands of truant children spend their days hanging around on street corners."

He has asked the unit to address the growing number of unruly pupils being thrown out of schools. Last year there were 12,500 exclusions, an increase of 13 per cent from 1994-95. Two thirds of school-age offenders sentenced in the youth court had either been excluded from school or were regular



Tony Blair in Lambeth, South London, yesterday with Joseph Prowse, a school parent-governor, and Kate Hoey, the area's Labour MP

truants. At yesterday's launch, two former truants appealed to young people to think about their future. Nenary Green, 16, was regularly in trouble with teachers and was threatened with exclusion from Stockwell Park School unless he obeyed the rules. "My parents spoke to me, my teachers spoke to me and I realised I didn't want to get kicked out of school," he said. "I

used to miss maybe two days a week, and even spent a day in the corridors at school. But now I'm doing my GCSEs and working hard. It's my future, and it's not just about going out of school and onto the dole. I want to be someone in the community like everyone else. I want to be a doctor or something like that."

Zoe Jennett, a 23-year-old mother

of two, said that she had been a disruptive pupil who was expelled from St Saviour's and St Olave's, Southwark, when she was 14. She then went to a tutor centre in Clapham and passed three GCSEs and is now a clerical officer. "It's not cool to get kicked out of school," she said. "When you're older you can't get a job and look after your family and it matters. You need

education to get a job and prospects in life."

Later the unit is expected to look at the plight of the mentally ill, many of whom are unable to keep jobs but not sick enough to claim benefits or to be obliged to have medical treatment.

Yesterday Church Action on Poverty urged Mr Blair to follow a five or ten-year strategy instead of

"high-profile but piecemeal" initiatives. Niall Cooper, national co-ordinator, said: "The Government must be prepared to challenge the vested interests of more wealthy and powerful groups in society, where they serve only to reinforce poverty and inequality."

The members of the social exclusion unit are: Jon Bright, of the crime prevention group Crime Concern; Simon Courage, of the Department for Education and Employment, where he has worked on the Welfare to Work policy; Guy Gardiner, a chief superintendent from Kent police; Mandy Jacklin, of the Department of Social Security, where she has worked on poverty, family and lone-parent policies; Amanda Jordan, of the public and community affairs group of the NatWest Group; Geoff Mulgan, a member of the Downing Street policy unit and founder of the left-of-centre think-tank Demos; Zena Peatfield, an assistant director of social services at Hammersmith and Fulham council; David Reardon, an assistant chief probation officer in inner London; Angela Sarkis, chief executive of the Church Urban Fund; Liz Walton, an official from the Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, where she has worked on housing and regeneration policy; and Katherine Wright, of the Department of Health.

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## Don't be misled by notions of Left and Right

THE *Iolanthe* view of politics - that "every boy and every gal... is either a little Liberal or else a little Conservative" - was an over-simplification even when written in 1882. It is now grossly misleading. The fallacy of a simple Left versus Right division was exposed nearly thirty years ago by Sir Samuel Brittan in his *Left or Right: The Bogus Dilemma*. The weakness of such a distinction in describing the views of voters has been highlighted by a new report, *Beyond Left and Right: The New Politics of Britain*, based on a MORI poll for the Institute of Economic Affairs.

The authors, John Blundell of IEA and Brian Gosschalk of MORI, reveal the complicated cross-currents of public opinion. Based on replies to 21 questions by 1,700 people last spring (during the election campaign), they produce five classifications - conservative (36 per cent), libertarian (19 per cent), socialist (18 per cent), centrist (15 per cent), and authoritarian (13 per cent). A conservative favours the market over the government as the best way to resolve economic matters, but wants a strong state presence in personal matters such as drugs, abortion or sex - with a socialist the exact opposite. An authoritarian is distrustful of everyone but the government and demands intervention on all fronts, while a libertarian favours a laissez-faire approach on all fronts.

Just over three fifths are market liberals and slightly less than three-fifths are socially conservative. This spectrum is remarkably similar to that found in America at the time of President Clinton's re-election 13 months ago. The authors also define a category of centrist in the middle of these groups.

These ideological classifications are not a clear guide to voting. Just 44 per cent of those defining themselves as conservative say they intended to vote Conservative, while even in the spring just 57 per cent of socialists intended to vote Labour (and 18 per cent Liberal Democrat). Women are slightly more authoritarian, conservative and centrist

than men, and the proportion of authoritarians and conservatives rises with age.

The detailed answers show strong support (at least 55 per cent, and in some cases much more) for the following propositions: government imposes too much red tape on industry and commerce; private medical coverage diverts resources from the NHS and should be discouraged; public transport fares should be subsidised; a compulsory identity card should be introduced; business and trade (rather than aid) is better for Third World governments; and abortion should be legally available to all who want it. The public is also, by a narrow margin, opposed to giving the police powers either to stop people at random and search them or to tap private telephone calls.

Little of this will be news to the Blair camp, whose strategy has been, successfully, to

### RIDDELL ON POLITICS

maximise support across these groups. According to the poll, nearly a quarter of conservatives said that they were going to vote Labour. Mr Blair's party came first in each of the other four ideological groups, winning the support of a third of libertarians and nearly three fifths of authoritarians, their ideological foes. It is all part of the Blairites' attempt to be the "People's Government". Critics say that the Government is being all things to all people. This cannot, and will not, last. As the Government takes decisions, and builds up a record, it will define itself more ideologically, and is bound to alienate some people. Nonetheless, any successful party has to appeal to at least some in each ideological group. Only partisans view life in narrow left-right terms. Most voters do not think of themselves within such blinkers, but then they are much less politically committed than politicians would like.

PETER RIDDELL

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'I am convinced it is now or never. One of the crews will break the record,' says confident Branson

# Hot air gives way to action in great balloon challenge

By Andrew Pierce

THE race is on between five balloons to be the first to float around the Earth. Meteorologists have given Richard Branson the all-clear in Marrakesh, Morocco, to launch his third attempt to circumnavigate the globe.

Take-off could come at any time between 4pm today and 10am tomorrow from a Moroccan airforce base at the foot of the Atlas Mountains. Steve Fossett, the millionaire solo balloonist who lasted six days before his challenge fell to Earth in January, has already beaten Mr Branson to the take-off. He left from the United States on Sunday afternoon. The five competitors could be crossing the skies at the same time in pursuit of the elusive record.

The go-ahead for Mr Branson was signalled by Martin Harris, the head of Oxford Scientific Services, who is linked up to meteorological stations in 70 countries around the world that the Virgin Global Challenger has to cross if it is to complete the 20,000-mile voyage.

The jet streams that are required to propel the 174 ft balloon, the biggest in the

world, are in place over Marrakesh and should wait the Challenger over India within four days.

But storm clouds are looming over the South China Sea and the Pacific Ocean. The Virgin team may have to sit over India for several days until the storms recede.

The Virgin assault on the record went horribly wrong in January when the helium, which is required to keep the balloon buoyant at night, cooled sharply. Changes to the multimillion-pound capsule should ensure that there is no similar mishap.

Mr Branson, speaking to *The Times* from Marrakesh, said last night: "Now the race is really on. Steve Fossett was first out of the blocks. I am sure we can overtake him. The others will be following suit. The record is going to fall to one of us." The three other competitors are waiting for similar weather conditions before they launch.

With the race expected to last at least 15 days, Mr Branson could be spending Christmas Day 35,000ft above the ground. Packed among the provisions are three Christ-

mas puddings, caviar and champagne, with strict instructions that they are not to be opened until December 25. The balloonists will fly at up to 35,000ft and travel up to 2,000 miles a day in an attempt to break the 20,000-mile barrier.

Marrakesh was the start for Mr Branson's first attempt in January, which came close to disaster when the Virgin Challenger crash-landed in Algeria.

Only the bravery of Alex Aitken, 52, the last-minute substitute member of the three-man crew, saved the voyage from a tragic ending. He clambered on the roof of the 11.5-tonne capsule at 6,000ft to dump a one-tonne propane gas cylinder overboard to halt the Challenger's 2,000ft-a-minute descent. They had been in the air only 24 hours and travelled only 400 miles.

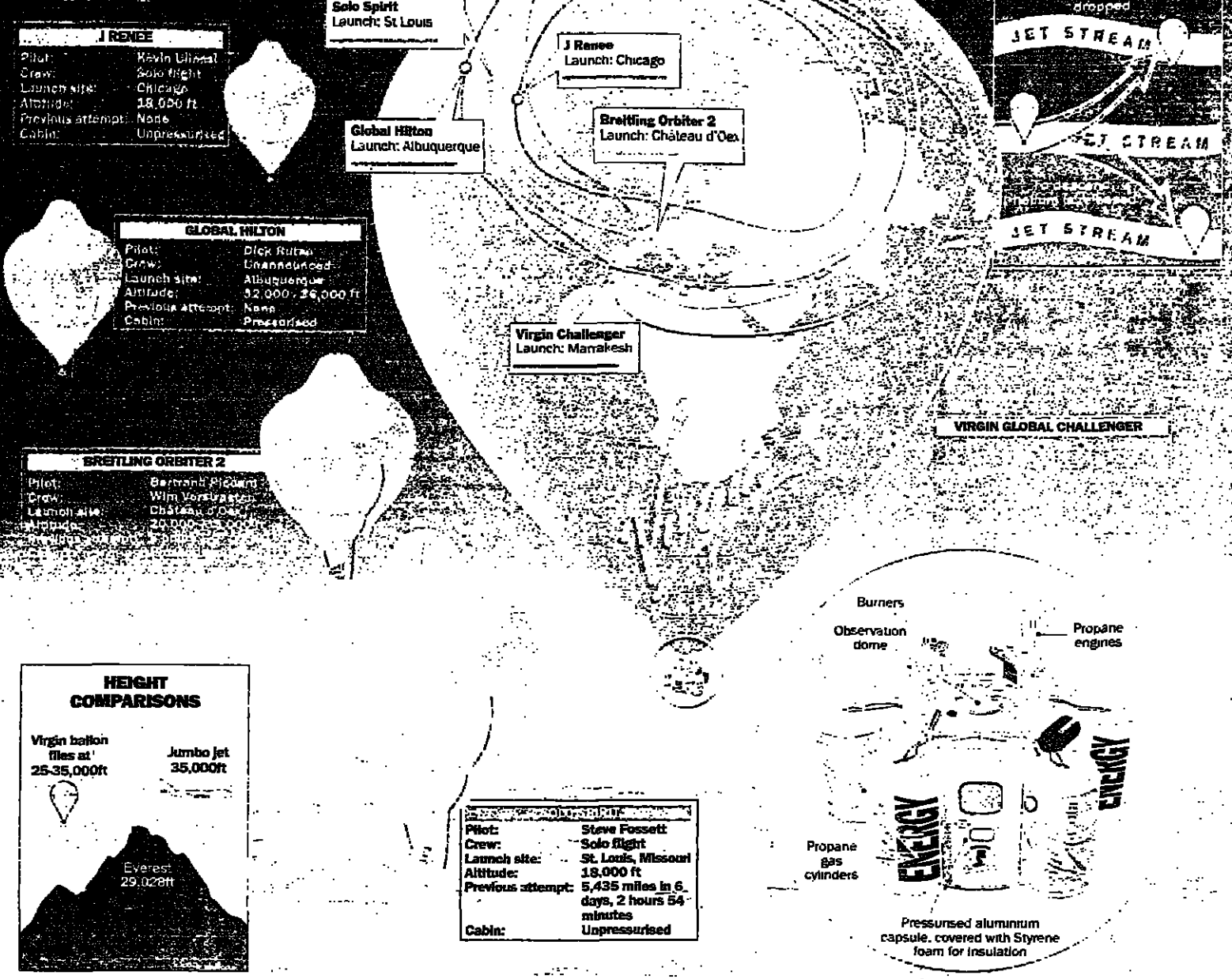
The prospect of a place in the record books has been sweetened for the adventurers. Budweiser beer has donated a trophy and a \$1 million (£600,000) prize to the winning balloonists. Mr Branson, the favourite, has said he would donate his share to charity.

Mr Branson, 47, Per Lindstrand, 49, who designed and built the Challenger, and the businessman Rory McCarthy, 39, the world civilian sky-diving champion, have been undergoing sky-diving training in Morocco in case they need to make a hurried exit from the capsule.

The Challenger, the most technically advanced of the five balloons, will fly over North Africa, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, northern India, across South East Asia and the Pacific, crossing Mexico and then the Atlantic.

Several of Mr Branson's Virgin companies have taken out insurance policies on the safe return of their founder. Mr Branson said: "I am convinced it is now or never."

## VIRGIN GLOBAL CHALLENGER, ITS RIVALS AND THE ROUTES THEY WILL TAKE



Richard Branson, the favourite to be first of five contenders to circumnavigate the globe, making checks, below, to the Challenger capsule

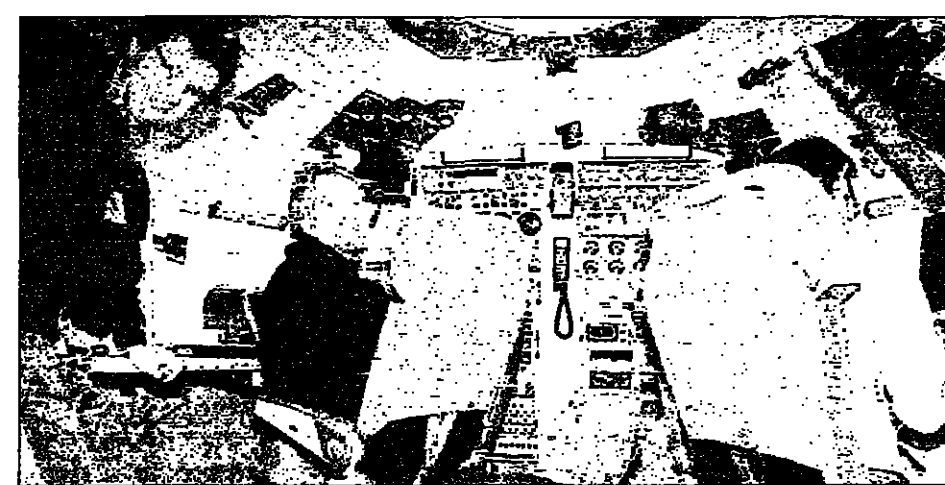
## PREPARATION HITCH

Richard Branson suffered a minor set-back yesterday in his attempt to be the first around the world in a balloon. While he and his co-pilot were practising sky-diving in case they have to bale out of Virgin Global Challenger, he injured his wrist and ankle after a particularly bumpy landing. However, after first-aid, doctors have passed Mr Branson fit to take part in the race for the record. During their first attempt in January, the crew had to crash-land in Algeria when the balloon started plummeting to Earth. It had been aloft for only 24 hours.



One of the five crews will break the record. They are all capable of doing it. I hope it will be us. "I have waited ten years for this. Having already crossed the Atlantic and the Pacific our team has a good chance. We could land anywhere between the Arctic and the Antarctic. But I have mown the lawn at our house in Oxfordshire. That is our ideal return zone." The course is highly unpredictable. When Mr Branson and Mr Lindstrand crossed the Pacific they aimed to touch down in Los Angeles but landed 2,500 miles further north in the frozen wastes of the Northwest Territories.

Since last year adaptations have been made to the capsule. "We have something up our sleeve which will surprise our opponents. It could be the decisive factor," Mr Branson said. He has already overcome one serious obstacle: the resistance of his wife, Joan. But having persuaded the family he is now braced to go. "I want to do it. I have to do it. It is an aviation milestone that has been described by the National Geographic Society as the century's last great aeronautical prize. It is now firmly within our grasp."



## Friendly bowls contest is jacked in

THE annual "friendly" between the two governing bodies of the normally sedate sport of bowls has been called off because one team includes women (Simon de Bruxelles writes).

The all-male English Indoor Bowling Association objected when it discovered that two women, one an England international, had been picked to play for the opposition. The rival English Bowls

Players' Association turned down an offer from one of the women to drop out and refused to change its 24-player line-up. The friendly game was then called off.

The English Bowls Players' Association, which admitted women members in April, was disappointed by the decision. Tony Alcock, its chairman, said: "Dropping our players would have been unacceptable. You can't have your oppo-

nents pick your team." The two governing bodies have met annually for years. This year's game, to have taken place at Watford on Sunday, was arranged before the association admitted women.

Bill Fowler, president of the English Indoor Bowling Association, said: "There are some very good lady players around but in competition it seems to me they do not quite measure up."

## Burglars leave rare birds to die of cold

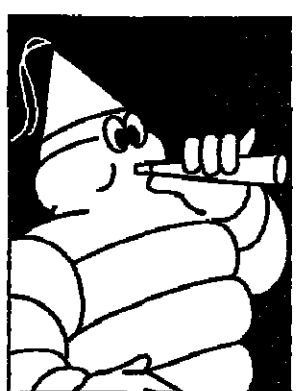
By Michael Hornsby

HUNDREDS of parakeets, cockatiels and other exotic birds have died after burglars broke into their breeding centre, cutting off the power supply that kept them warm.

They also opened the doors of more than 30 outside aviaries containing several thousand birds. Hundreds escaped before the raid on Saturday night was discovered. They are unlikely to survive for more than a week.

Brett Hammond, director of Pegasus Birds at Brentwood, Essex, who breeds the birds for zoos and collectors, said: "It is incomprehensible to me that anyone would want to do anything so spiteful and malicious to helpless birds."

The raiders stole a computer and attacked electrical equipment with expanding foam. "This tripped out the electricity supply, sending temperatures plummeting, and many birds died of cold," Mr Hammond said. "Others broke their necks as they flew about in the dark."

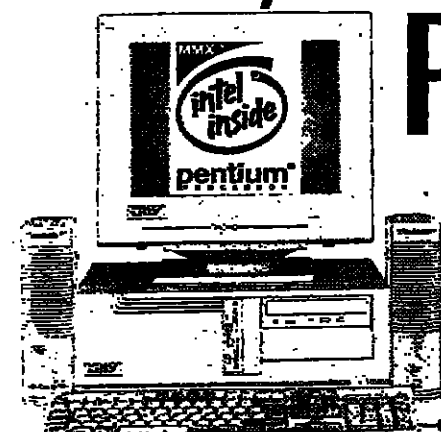


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# 9,000 quit town after 1943 bomb is dug up in France

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

NINE THOUSAND residents of a town outside Paris were evacuated yesterday as French troops moved in to defuse a large unexploded bomb left after a British attack in the Second World War.

The 1,000lb bomb was unearthed in the middle of Dugny, a town on the outskirts of the French capital, during building work on the site of a wartime military barracks used by the occupying Germans.

At dawn yesterday the town was sealed off with roadblocks by more than 500 military and riot police, and 30 buses were brought in to transport residents to a nearby exhibition centre while the 54-year-old bomb was neutralised by a military disposal squad.

"There is no panic," said André Veyssière, the Mayor of Dugny, as the evacuation got under way. The town, close to

Le Bourget airport, was used as a large German troop depot in 1943 and 1944. The runways were of crucial importance to the Luftwaffe, and the town was the target of repeated Allied bombing.

The bomb, containing more than 500lb of explosives, is believed to be one of hundreds that rained down on the town on the night of August 16, 1943. That raid, lasting just 15 minutes, destroyed 95 per cent of the buildings in Dugny and killed more than 200 people.

The bomb was discovered last week and many inhabitants moved out of Dugny at the weekend after being warned of the disposal operation. Police searched houses and cellars around the site to ensure no one was left behind, and a small contingent of police remained on hand to deter possible looting.

The successful two-hour op-



Lieutenant-Colonel Michel Kadikoff, head of the bomb disposal team, with the 1,000lb bomb and its broken fuse in Dugny yesterday

eration to defuse the bomb was carried out using a remote-controlled device. Neutralising the bomb was a particularly delicate manoeuvre since the detonator, which had to be unscrewed, had broken on impact with the ground, according to Lieutenant-Colonel Michel Kadikoff, the disposal squad leader.

Whether through some form of Blitz mentality, bloody-mindedness or sang-

froid, a few locals declared they would not leave their houses despite the entreaties of officials. "I'm staying in my home. I have no intention of going into a hangar," one resident said. "I'm going to close my shutters and board up the windows. That way, if there is an explosion, it won't break the panes."

Explosives experts said that if the bomb had gone off, it could have devastated most of

the centre of Dugny in a radius of hundred of yards. "A tiny fragment could decapitate a person at a distance of 300 yards," one member of the disposal team said.

After the 1943 attack, two further bombing raids, in June and August 1944, completed the destruction of Dugny. After the liberation of France, the town was rebuilt from scratch, although a number of intact bombs re-

mained embedded in the earth. Dugny is still riddled with unexploded ordnance, according to residents. "Every time you dig a hole, you find another bomb," one said.

The rusting bomb, 5ft long, was discovered during preliminary construction work on a new barracks for the elite Republican Guard, the guards of honour at state ceremonies. Albert Copry, the site foreman, said: "The workers

didn't see it immediately. It was while the earth was being dug out that it fell out of the bucket of a bulldozer."

Oranienburg: German police evacuated 10,000 people from homes, schools and public buildings in this town northwest of Berlin yesterday while experts defused a Second World War bomb. The 1,000lb bomb was found 9ft underground at a construction site. (AP)

## Furore as ANC women jettison Winnie

FROM SAM KILBY IN JOHANNESBURG

THE African National Congress and its Women's League were yesterday locked in a bitter dispute after the party rushed to announce that the league had dumped its president, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, from its candidate list for the ANC's deputy presidency.

Ronnie Mapona, the ANC's spokesman, said early yesterday that the Women's League national executive had dropped her name from a list of nominees for the top jobs in the ANC which will be decided at the party's fiftieth congress later this month.

Sources at the Women's League said that allegations at the hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which ended last week and linked President Mandela's former wife to at least six murders and numerous cases of torture, had forced its executive to back the ANC's chosen candidate, Jacob Zuma.

But they had wanted to save face by announcing that the league had decided that it would not list anyone for the ANC deputy presidency. Mr Mapona later withdrew his statement that Mrs Mandela, 63, had been dropped by the Women's League after a threat from many within the league's leadership that they would defy the party hierarchy and return her name to its list of nominations.

The debacle for Mrs Mandela represents a severe blow for her immediate political ambitions. But it also saves her from having to face an election which, ANC sources said, she was bound to lose badly.

Mr Mandela, 79, will step down as party leader at the conference and Thabo Mbeki, Deputy President of the country and of the ANC, is the only candidate for the position.

## New Zealand woman Premier sworn in

Wellington: Jenny Shipley was sworn in as New Zealand's first woman Prime Minister yesterday, and quickly promised a "tough-love" approach to solving the country's social ills (Cathie Bell writes).

Mrs Shipley, 45, said after her swearing-in by Sir Michael Hardie Boys, the Governor-General, that she hoped

"things would be done differently" with a woman in charge, and that her leadership might inspire young women to take on greater challenges.

The new leader, who ousted Jim Bolger as head of the National-New Zealand First coalition, said it was a relief to take over officially after a five-week transition period.



Jenny Shipley and Sir Michael at yesterday's ceremony

## Santa hit by unruly yule

FROM CATHIE BELL IN WELLINGTON

SANTA CLAUS is nursing a black eye after being pelted with water bombs during a Christmas parade in Kaikohe. Playing Santa is a dangerous occupation in the small New Zealand town. Last year, he was pelted with lollies by youths; he was also set upon and bombarded with eggs in the nearby town of Kaitiaki. In

the most recent incident, Brian Brewerton, 61, a pharmacist, agreed to play Santa, despite the occupational risks, accepting with reluctance.

Twenty minutes after the start he was struck by the first water bombs while riding on a fire engine. One bomb caught him off guard, hitting his right eye. "I was leaning into the bag to pick up some lollies when, whammo, I was caught from right field. I

couldn't see. It was wildly painful and both my eyes were streaming."

For the rest of the parade, Mr Brewerton was unable to deliver any Christmas cheer. A day later, his eye socket was blackened and his eyeball red from burst blood vessels.

Both Kaitiaki and Kaikohe are part of New Zealand's far north, an economically depressed area with high unemployment.

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Hong Kong	27p	58p	53%	South Africa	35p	79p	56%
India	45p/54p	£1.20	59%	Spain	23p	36p	36%
Ireland	13p	23p	43%	Switzerland	20p	28p	28%
Italy	23p	36p	36%	Taiwan	41p	£1.08	62%
Japan	18p/22p	77p	74%	USA	7p/13p	24p	59%

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# Needy refugees 'abandoned by quick-fix West'

BY PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA AND MICHAEL BINYON

WESTERN countries, including Britain, have been accused of lacking the political courage to tackle the world's refugee crisis. Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said yesterday that the greatest powers were "retreating from political or military involvement to solve conflicts", leaving humanitarian agencies to fill the gap.

At the launch of the UNHCR's biennial report, she accused the West of leaving her office to struggle with the burden of 22 million refugees and internally displaced people because of their insistence on finding a quick fix to complex problems such as those in the Great Lakes and Zaire — regarded by Western diplomats as one of her agency's greatest disasters.

The report shows that in recent years Britain has taken the most severe line in Western Europe against asylum seekers. The proportion granted some form of protection in Britain dropped from a peak of 38 per cent in 1989 to about

20 per cent last year. The restrictive policy brings Britain into line with France and Germany. Britain, yesterday insisted that it had "a warm heart for genuine refugees". Michael O'Brien, the Immigration Minister, said that many refugees were granted asylum and others were allowed to remain on compassionate grounds, even though they did not qualify under the terms of the 1951 Refugee Convention.

He said that Britain would not become "a soft touch" for those seeking to abuse the asylum system. Migrants trying to evade immigration controls posed a particular problem. Those who sought to abuse the process were the worst enemies of genuine refugees because they undermined public support for the asylum system, he said.

Britain introduced tougher criteria for the admission of refugees after the number began rising sharply in the early 1990s. An increasing number were found to be seeking a better life in the

West. Like other Western countries, Britain argued that it had no obligation to accept "economic" refugees. The previous Conservative Government passed legislation with new guidelines, in 1993 and 1996, intended to screen out such asylum applications.

Britain was strongly criticised at the start of the Bosnian war for admitting so few refugees and for insisting that victims of "ethnic cleansing" had to have visas, although there was no consulate in Bosnia from which they could be obtained. Britain admitted fewer than a fifth of those given refuge in Germany.

The 20 states which are the largest hosts for refugees, all developing countries, are led by Pakistan and Iran. The Iranians provide shelter for more than 2.5 million Afghan and Iraqi refugees.

The number of recognised refugees worldwide has started to fall in the past two years. Mrs Ogata admitted she would be cutting the size of her office in Geneva.

## Orders trimmed for papal guards

Rome: The recruitment crisis facing the Swiss Guard, the Pope's personal protection force, has become so acute that the Vatican is reducing the height requirement for recruits. (Richard Owen writes.)

"Now even midgets can join," *l'Espresso* said. At present guards have to be male, Swiss, Roman Catholic and 1.74m (5ft 8in) tall. Vatican officials said the rules for the guard, established 500 years ago, would not be formally changed, but "we will simply turn a blind eye to how tall or short they are".

The main reason for the lack of recruits is the pay, which at £630 a month is considered "on the low side". Colonel Roland Buchs, the commanding officer, left at the end of last month when his contract expired, and has still not been replaced, even though the Vatican has been seeking a successor for more than a year.

The force consists of 120 men between the ages of 18 and 25, who are drawn from a handful of Swiss cantons, including Lucerne. The only occasion on which they have had to offer their lives in the service of a pontiff was during the sack of Rome in 1527, when all but 12 died with their backs to the Vatican.



A Swiss Guard takes the oath to protect the Pope in a 400-year-old ceremony

## Peruvian leader slips out of palace for love

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT FUJIMORI of Peru has revealed that he often sneaks past security guards and out of the back door of his presidential palace, in the centre of Lima, for "romantic escapades".

Señor Fujimori, 60, described his night-time adventures during a South American cable television programme which was broadcast yesterday. He had invited the blonde presenter of *Telenovelas*, Antonella Palazzo, and her film crew, on a tour of the colonial building where he lives and has his offices, showing them the bedrooms and even his wardrobe.

"I have to slip out in secret so that I can have my romances in peace," Señor Fujimori said. "I run out through the back door and drive past the gates in a small car which is not so obvious."

He admitted that his Casanova-style escapades began after his marriage with Susana Higuchi, the mother of his three children, ended in divorce last year.

Señora Higuchi had accused her husband of being involved in corrupt deals after the President ordered his security guards to remove her from the presidential home following a marital tiff in 1994.

"I am hoping to marry again by 1998 so I have to have time for my private visits," he added.

Señor Fujimori said that he had been a "late starter", experiencing his first kiss when 32. "It was with a German teacher I had, at the end of one of the lessons," he recalled.

## Playing on the side of angels puts footballers in a higher league

Vatican team has international goal, writes Richard Owen

THE Vatican City football team, the only national team that can (and does) boast that its players never foul or swear, is doing so well in the Italian five-a-side championship that it is setting its sights on international football, and perhaps ultimately, the World Cup.

Although it covers only 108 acres, the Vatican has a thriving football league behind its secretive high walls, with teams representing the Swiss Guards, the Secret Archive, the Vatican Police, the Palatine Guard, (which plays as St Peter and St Paul), the St Peters telephonists, the Vati-

can firemen, Radio Vatican, Vatican Television (the Argonauts), the Vatican Bank (two teams — The Gladiators and the mysteriously named Team X), the Vatican Museums (again two teams — Hermes and Santos), the Vatican Accountants, and the Sant'Arma church, just inside the Vatican grounds.

*L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper, used to field a team, but according to

insiders the papal journalists have given up after a series of humiliating defeats. The Secret Archives, who have won eight games in a row, are currently top of the Vatican championships. Last time they played the Swiss Guards they beat them 10-0, and the Guards (who are facing a recruitment crisis) were so demoralised that they have not played since.

The Vatican national team,

drawn from the best of the internal league and called the *Sistina*, or SSS (Società Sportiva Sistina), started playing in the Rome and Lazio five-a-side league this season. It has done so well against top sides (three games won, one lost and one drawn away) that there is talk of promotion to the Second Division and then the First Division.

"Give us another year and we'll be at the top of the five-a-side league," said Saverio Di Poli, a former professional footballer who is now a typographer at the Vatican press, which prints the Pope's encyclicals and other Vatican documents.

Professional footballers tend to acquire reputations as sinners rather than saints, for their off-field activities as much as for what they get up to on the pitch, but noted England internationals such as Gary Lineker, Sir Bobby Charlton and Sir Stanley Matthews would undoubtedly qualify for a place in the side of the footballing angels, never having fallen foul of referees in their playing careers.

Glen Hoddle, the England coach, is well known for his Christian beliefs, as is Gavin Peacock, the Queens Park Rangers forward nicknamed "the Reverend". Alan Comfort,

the former Newcastle United and Darlington winger, has taken holy orders.

Since there is no football field inside Vatican City — the available space is taken up by the magnificent papal gardens — the players use a nearby pitch in Rome, just off the Via Aurelia.

The Pope is said to take a keen interest, and regularly asks aides for detailed reports on the matches. He recently scolded the Swiss Guards team for doing so badly, saying they should "do better in matters of defence, both on the field and off it".

Roberto Di Stefano, the

assistant trainer, said the Vatican side had a "distinctive force — discipline. Sportsmanship and Christian values go hand in hand." He said the players "never let swear words pass their lips, either on the pitch or in the dressing room, and never perform malicious fouls". He said this amounted to a secret weapon, since the team's good nature, aplomb and impeccable manners left opposing players in a rage and put them off their stroke.

Signor Di Stefano said any player "caught breaking the Second Commandment" by swearing was taken off the team immediately.

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# Arafat meets Islamic leaders in attempt to break peace deadlock

YASSIR ARAFAT, the Palestinian leader, received a red carpet welcome in Iran when he arrived for today's Islamic summit. The meeting is being hosted by the most vocal opponent of the Middle East peace process that has long branded him a traitor. After touching down at Tehran's Mehrabad airport, however, the man who shook hands with Yitzhak Rabin on the White House lawn was kissed on the cheeks by Iran's moderate new President, Muhammad Khatami.

A haggard-looking Mr Arafat, making his first visit in 15 years, told reporters "the whole region

## Michael Theodoulou in Tehran reports on the conference of Muslim nations

will suffer confusion and anything could happen", if Rabin's successor as Israeli Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, failed to honour agreements to exchange land for peace. Amir Moussa, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, representing the first Arab country to make peace with Israel, also criticised "destructive" policies.

For Iranian commentators, their

disillusionment, which reflects opinion across the Arab world, vindicates Tehran's opposition to the peace process. That stance is graphically illustrated by symbols such as the huge mural in the capital of Fathi Shikaki, the Islamic Jihad leader, who was assassinated by Israel after he masterminded a series of suicide attacks. Yet in general Iran has toned down its

rhetoric against the "so called" peace process while Arab states have increased theirs.

Scuffles broke out when jittery Iranian security men prevented Mr Arafat's bodyguards from getting into the limousine to whisk him away from the airport where planes carrying princes, emirs and presidents were touching down every few minutes.

Iranian officials, worried that terrorists will attempt to disrupt the most important international gathering on their soil since the 1979 Islamic revolution, said no insult was intended. The dead-

locked peace process is top of the agenda at what is being hailed as the best-attended summit of the 55-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference since it was formally established in 1971 to foster unity among the world's one million Muslims. A tough draft resolution prepared by foreign ministers calls for an end to normalisation with Israel to punish it for "reinstating an atmosphere of war".

Despite Iranian objections, however, the resolution expresses full support for the peace process and demands that Israel implement its obligations under American-bro-

kered agreements. Western diplomats in Tehran are watching keenly to see whether Iran, keen for the summit to end with a display of Islamic unity, endorses any final resolution that even hints at normalisation with Israel.

Iranian hardliners and pragmatists alike ruled out any accommodation with Israel, although in strikingly different language. Iran's moderate Foreign Minister, Kamal Kharrazi, told reporters that his country could never establish ties with Israel, but added that Iran would not try to impose its views on other states. *Kayhan*, a

hardline newspaper, meanwhile called for the "total abolition of the al-Quds [Jerusalem]-occupying regime". It concluded: "It is not possible to accept a country called Israel in the political geography of the region."

□ Iraqi plea: The most senior Iraqi to visit Tehran since the 1979 revolution arrived yesterday to plead his country's case against UN sanctions. Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan said he had a message from President Saddam Hussein. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 19

## Israel steps up plans for air attacks on Iran

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN TEL AVIV

ISRAEL is revamping military contingency plans to neutralise Iran's Russian-backed missile and nuclear weapon programme in the face of the failure of international diplomatic pressure to prevent Moscow giving vital assistance to Tehran.

Military planners are studying two main options — hitting Iranian missile plants in the cities of Shiraz, Kurumbad, Farhin and Semnan with the "long arm" of its airforce, or targeting foreign scientists at the facilities rather than the buildings themselves.

The chances of a "surgical" air strike similar to that launched against the Iraqi Osirak nuclear reactor 16 years ago, just weeks before it was due to "go critical", were boosted last month when Israel took delivery of the first of 25 advanced F15 fighter planes, part of a \$2.2 billion (£1.3 billion) order from America made specifically with Iran in mind. All the aircraft are due to be operational early in 1999.

Israel chose the plane over the Lockheed Martin F16, a cheaper aircraft, because of its longer range and ability to carry a bigger payload. It is

believed to be capable of reaching Iran — nearly twice as far as Iraq — without refuelling, and delivering 11 tonnes of bombs and missiles.

Israeli and US defence executives claim that the F15, which contains numerous Israeli sub-systems, is the most advanced fighter in production. It is based on the dual-engine F16 which destroyed virtually all the planes lost by Iraq in the 1991 Gulf War.

Signalling Israel's intentions in public for the first time, Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister, told a recent conference in Israel on ballistic missiles: "The other side must know that Israel will not take it lightly if someone targets us with long-range missiles and threatens our population."

Mr Mordechai, who yesterday became the first Israeli Defence Minister to visit Turkey, a country that is likely to prove a key factor in any pre-emptive strike on Iran, added: "A country like Iran possessing such long-range weaponry — a country that lacks stability, that is characterised by Islamic fundamentalism, by an extremist ideology, that is

striving to become a super-power in the Middle East — is very dangerous."

According to *Israel's Secret Wars*, a book on the history of Israeli intelligence operations, Mossad secret agents are thought to have murdered German scientists working on an Egyptian rocket programme in the 1960s and an Egyptian metallurgist involved in 1980 on Iraq's nuclear effort.

But Benjamin Frankel, a political scientist who is editor of a Washington-based journal on strategic studies, says: "Missile technology is so widespread that Iran would always find new instructors."

Although Israeli sources insist that talk of a "military option" is still premature, patience within Binyamin Netanyahu's Government is fast running out. The sources said yesterday that, thanks to Moscow, Iranian Shahab-3 missiles with a range of 1,300km (800 miles), capable of hitting Israeli targets, would be ready for use by 1999.

They added that if nothing were done, Iran would be a nuclear power by 2005.



Palestinian children at a rally to mark the tenth anniversary of the Intifada at the Islamic University in Gaza yesterday. The uprising against Israeli rule broke out in the Gaza Strip in 1987 and continued until 1994. Some students called for a jihad (holy war) against

## Intifada commemorated

the occupation. The walls of university buildings were decked with the green flag of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, and pictures of its spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, re-

cently released from an Israeli jail. The anniversary coincided with an Islamic feast day marking the Prophet Muhammad's ascension. Protesters in Hebron waved banners reading "No

peace without prisoner releases" and "No peace without a settlement freeze". During the Intifada, 1,306 Palestinians were killed by Israelis, 192 Israelis were killed by Palestinians, and 822 Palestinians, accused of collaboration, were killed in intra-Arab violence. (AFP)

## Militants 'to halt attacks on tourists'

FROM REUTERS IN CAIRO

THE Egyptian Muslim militant group that claimed responsibility for the massacre last month of 58 foreign tourists in Luxor said yesterday it would no longer target tourists in its battle to install an Islamic government.

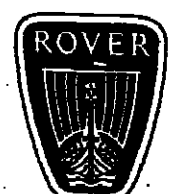
"Gamaa al-Islamiya [Islamic Group] has decided to stop targeting either the tourism industry or foreign tourists," a group statement said. "In taking this decision, Gamaa is displaying its sense of responsibility because it does not want this incident [the Luxor massacre], which we condemn, to be used against us in our conflict with the Egyptian Government. Orders to this effect have been given to all our cells and all our members to prevent a recurrence of such a mistake due to administrative and technical problems," it said.

Gamaa said its own investigation into the attack showed that young members had acted independently, indicating that the group lacked a central authority and had fragmented into smaller, more violent elements.

Ninety-two tourists have been killed in 25 attacks since 1992, many of which were claimed by Gamaa as a way to damage the lucrative tourism industry.

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# The fear that can stop men seeking treatment

As part of *The Times* Christmas appeal for research into prostate cancer, Anjana Ahuja and Dr Thomas Stuttford report on its treatment

Treatments for prostate cancer depend largely on the stage at which the disease is caught. If detected early enough, and experts are reasonably confident that the cancer is confined to just the prostate gland, a total prostatectomy (often called a radical prostatectomy) is thought to be the best option. This involves the removal of the whole gland, the bladder and the urethra are then stitched together.

However, it is a major operation carrying substantial risks, and the dangers are magnified for older patients. Overall, there is a 1 per cent chance of dying on the operating table, and a 50 to 70 per cent chance of impotence. There is a slight risk (5 per cent) of incontinence, although most experts agree that the risk varies according to the surgeon.

The advantage of the operation is that removal of the gland stops the cancer spreading. However, no doctor can be sure that the disease hasn't spread outside the prostate — in just under one out of three prostatectomies, the gland is shown to be cancerous around the edge. This implies that the tissue left behind has a good chance of harbouring the disease. In one out of eight patients who have prostatectomies, the cancer recurs.

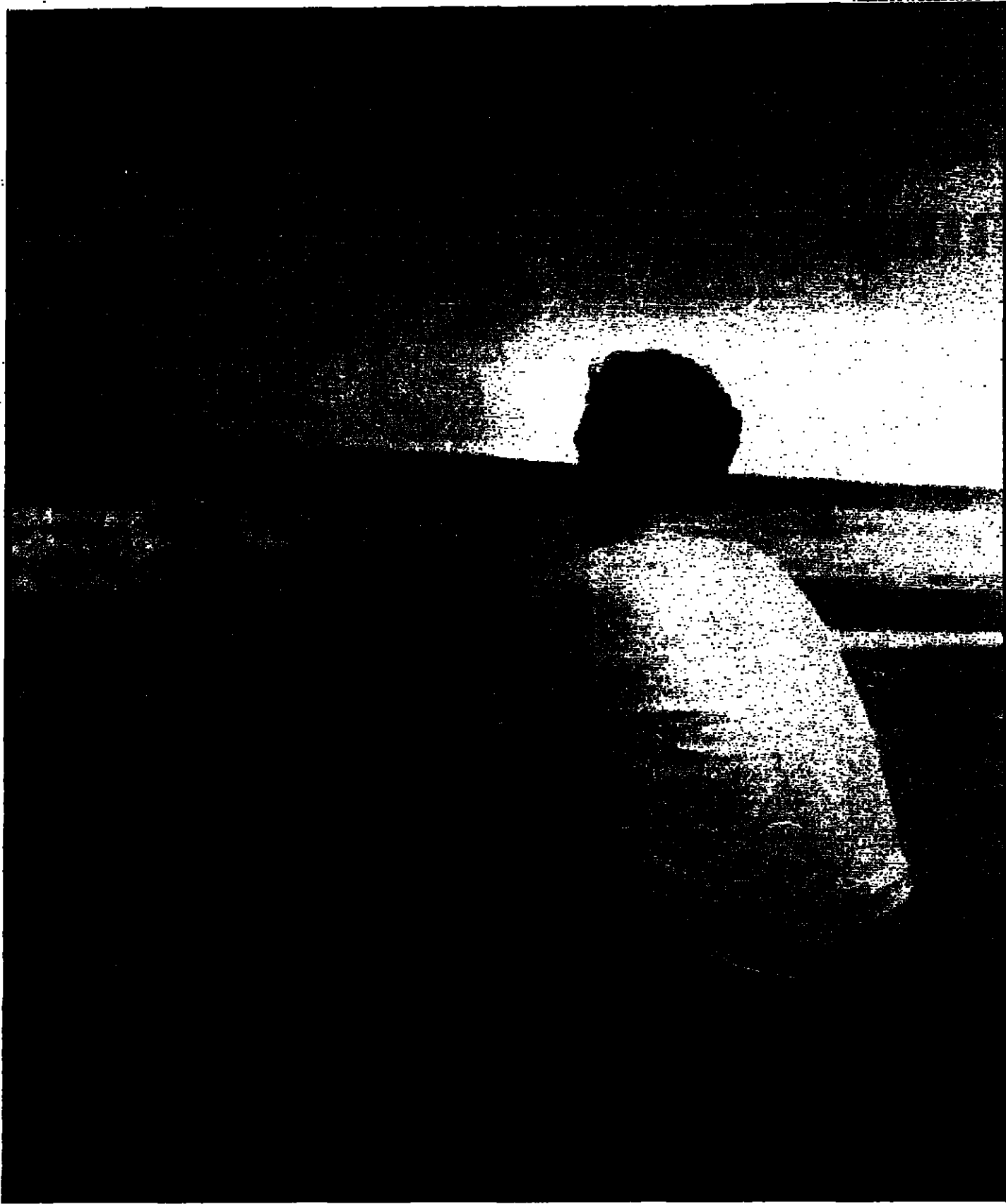
Although the operation can cut out early, localised cancers, many men will simply not opt for it because it is likely to end their sex lives. Dr Clare Moynihan, a sociologist at the Institute of Cancer Research, says: "There is no doubt that some men will decide not to have major surgery because they don't want to lose their potency. We can understand that, because it is such a large part of one's life. But it is anecdotal evidence. I don't know of any scientific studies." Robert Shearer, consultant urologist at the

Royal Marsden Hospital in London, says older men are more likely to be put off than younger men, who may have seen older relatives in the advanced stages of prostate cancer. "If they are in their forties, they have more to gain from getting rid of a condition that may cause them serious trouble in the next five to ten years." Mr Shearer adds that many men do not realise that there is a treatment available for impotence, which involves an injection into the penis about 15 minutes before intercourse. The treatment does not compromise sexual enjoyment, but men have to get used to a "dry orgasm", because there is no ejaculation.

A prostatectomy is not thought appropriate for patients whose cancer has spread beyond the prostate. In those cases, they will be prescribed a six-week course of X-ray radiotherapy. There are still serious side-effects: one in three men having radiation therapy will become impotent. There can be bleeding in the rectum and bladder, but incontinence is rare.

Another line of attack is to suppress or block the effects of testosterone, a treatment to which the majority of cancers respond. In rare cases, the testes can be removed, in an orchidectomy. However, less radical approaches are available. One involves injecting a small pellet underneath the skin of the abdomen once every three months. There is a downside — both orchidectomies and the pellets result in impotence and loss of libido. There are hormone tablets that do not have such severe effects, but they are much less efficient at tackling tumours.

Generally, side-effects include hot flushes, muscle weakness and lapses in concentration. But patients' responses vary enormously, says Dr David Dearnaley, a spe-



Men in their 40s have more to gain from getting rid of a condition that may cause them serious trouble in the next five to ten years

cialist in prostate cancer treatments at the Institute of Cancer Research and the Royal Marsden Hospital, in London. He says: "Some men don't notice they are on treatment, but other patients find hormone treatments intolerable." A two-pronged attack, combining hormone therapy and radiation, can increase the success rate of radiotherapy, which stands at 50-80 per cent.

Brachytherapy — a controversial treatment, also known as seed therapy or interstitial radiotherapy, in which tiny radioactive pellets are inserted into the prostate — is gaining credibility. Between 50 and 120 pellets, each as small as a grain of rice, are fed through hollow needles, via the scrotum, into the prostate. The pellets, either radioactive iodine or radioactive palladium, deliver radiation gradually over a period of months. "For

patients with small cancers, it's a one-off outpatient treatment that takes about 45 minutes," says Dr Kent Wallman, who works with Dr John Blasko at the University of Washington in Seattle. Dr Blasko is widely credited with pioneering this innovative treatment.

The technique depends on the seeds getting to the right place; surgeons use ultrasound scanning to guide the pellets to their destination. The advantages are that radiation is targeted more precisely, and it offers a lower incidence of impotence (30 per cent) than radical prostatectomies. "In the right hands, it is a very good form of treatment," says Dr Dearnaley.

But brachytherapy remains controversial, especially in America. Dr Wallman says: "We are in direct conflict with surgeons who offer

prostatectomies because we take their business away. But our data holds up, and we have results going back ten years."

"Small cancers have an 80 per cent chance of being cured, and larger cancers have a 50-50 chance of being cured. By cure, I mean a PSA level of less than one for five years. There aren't many major developments in medicine, but I believe this is one of them."

Other forms of radiotherapy, using protons or neutrons, have been tested. Protons are positively charged particles, while neutrons carry no charge: both are found in the nuclei of atoms. While X-rays carry energy but have no mass, the particles carry mass and energy.

The advantage over X-rays, Dr Dearnaley says, is that once the particles penetrate tissue, they will travel a certain distance and then stop. This allows doctors to deposit

the particles in a precise location. X-rays lose their energy as soon as they enter tissue, so by the time the beam reaches its target, it has weakened. For this reason, overlapping X-ray beams are used.

The precision means there are fewer side-effects, but the drawback is that the machines which generate neutrons and protons are extremely expensive. Dr Dearnaley says: "At a rough guess, you could buy ten X-ray machines for the cost of one proton machine."

Research has focused on refining the X-ray treatment. One promising area is conformal radiotherapy, where the X-ray beam is shaped according to the target area. This allows a bigger, more accurately targeted dose, minimising damage to healthy tissue. Dr Dearnaley will be studying the technique on 450 men over three years in a study for the Medical Research Council.

## Drugs to cure the blues

THERE are between five and six million people in the United Kingdom who have suffered from severe, disabling depression. On in ten of the medicine chests of Britain will therefore probably contain a bottle which has, or has had, in it a prescribed anti-depressant. Charles Medawar, in paper on modern anti-depressants in the *International Journal of Risk and Safety in Medicine*, has worried many of those who have taken anti-depressants, particularly if the drug prescribed was a 5HT reuptake inhibitor such as Prozac. Could they, they have been asking, become addicted like a heroin addict, or dependent as some have become on tranquillisers? Mr Medawar had suggested that the 5HT reuptake inhibitors could be as addictive as benzodiazepines.

Mr Medawar's expertise is in consumer protection and litigation about the side-effects of prescribed drugs. He's too young to have seen the revolution that followed the introduction of the first effective anti-depressant tricyclics. Patients who had been crippled by the depression were able to resume their place in the family.

Tricyclic anti-depressants, such as Tofranil imipramine, Tryptizol amitriptyline and Prothiaden

## MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

dothiepin, take two or three weeks to become effective. They tend to be very sedative, which may be useful but can make work difficult. They produce a shake, make passing urine difficult (which can be disastrous for older men), they blur the vision and exacerbate glaucoma, cause unsteadiness on the feet and occasionally cause heart problems. In overdose they are dangerous as there is no effective antidote. If these anti-depressants are effective within three to four weeks, the patient becomes more alert and active, feelings of gloom and hopelessness lift, and sleep and appetite are restored. Some patients need to continue with their treatment, but about 90 per cent can tail it off after six months.

A tetracyclic anti-depressant, Ludiomil has fewer cardiac side-effects and is less upsetting to the eyes or bladder. Most doctors feel that the 5HT reuptake inhibitors, such drugs as Prozac, fluoxetine, Serono paroxetine, Lustral, sertraline, Faverin fluvoxamine, are safer than the tricyclics as they don't cause so much sedation and are not toxic to the heart. They are much safer in overdose than their effect, if they are to prove effective, shows more quickly. The 5HT reuptake inhibitors are also arguably, somewhat more efficient than anti-depressants and have other uses such as the treatment of panic attacks, obsessive compulsive disorders, and may be helpful in a wide variety of other personality troubles. Reuptake inhibitors have the disadvantage that they can cause restlessness, abdominal discomfort, tremors and loss of libido. The 5HT reuptake inhibitors have been joined by a NASS, a noradrenaline selective serotonin anti-depressant Zispin mirtazapine which, it is claimed, doesn't produce the restlessness of the Prozac-type drugs.

ANOTHER group of anti-depressants, the MAOIs, have been available for 30 or 40 years and are useful in anxious depressives, but taking them involves considerable dietary limitation. The medicine chest holders can rest assured. The anti-depressants will not cause addiction but if they are left off suddenly, the patient may develop anti-depressant discontinuation syndrome. The dizziness, light-headedness, nausea and vomiting, insomnia and flu-like symptoms are very confusing diagnostically but they pass off in a matter of days. Anti-depressants should be taken for at least six months, and only then tailed off.

## A hidden killer that can strike without warning

Prostate cancer is a hidden disease because the gland lies between the base of the bladder and rectum and can be reached only by a doctor's probing finger. Its initial symptoms, if there are any, usually cause no inconvenience. Indeed, 75 per cent of patients with the disease do not seek a medical opinion until the cancer has spread beyond the gland.

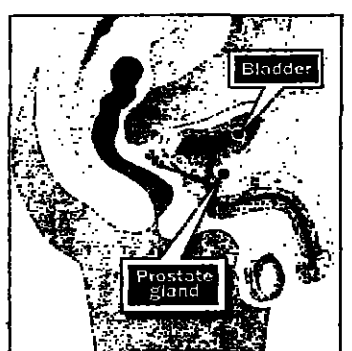
The two cancers in my prostate produced no symptoms. I never needed to urinate at night and never had to rush to the lavatory. The presence of the tumours was suspected only because of a raised PSA, a blood test that indicates cancer may be present. It was confirmed by biopsy.

Had I waited for symptoms to develop, I would have had an 80 per cent chance of dying, what-

ever treatment was prescribed thereafter.

When the tumour is apparently confined to the gland, its lack of spread has to be confirmed by a scan of the pelvis and a whole body bone scan. Most doctors think the choice of treatment then lies between surgery and radiotherapy. Alas, in 50 per cent of the cases operated on the tumour is more advanced than was expected after the preliminary tests.

The operation that can clear the cancer from the body is a radical prostatectomy, but it is not suitable in all cases. There must be no sign of spread and the patient must be under 70 and fit enough for major surgery. The mortality rate is low and associated mainly with pulmonary embolism — blood clots spreading from the veins in the leg to the lung. In an American study



of 1,000 patients, only two died. But while the operation is common in the US, as many as 12 per cent of patients have a vein thrombosis in the legs, and up to 3 per cent have post-operative pulmonary emboli. Incontinence and impotence have also given the operation a bad

name. Even in the best hands as many as a third of patients may be incontinent once the catheter has been removed. Most of these patients regain complete, or almost complete, control of their bladder within four or five months. More than 50 per cent are impotent after radical surgery.

Another reason for the opposition to radical prostatectomy in Britain is that it would increase the demand for the operation. Not only is it very expensive, but we would not have enough trained surgeons if demand suddenly increased. Even skilled urologists who constantly perform other operations may lack the necessary technique, while some anaesthetists may not have the temperament or experience to deal with these cases. Moreover, many hospital trusts lack the cash, personnel and the-

atre time to enable the operation to become a standard NHS procedure. Radiotherapy is recommended for patients whose tumour has spread only locally, or for those not fit enough for radical surgery. The former can have results similar to the latter, even though the cancer is not always eradicated. But radiotherapy can have complications: surrounding tissue may be burnt, or impotence and incontinence can occur, even years after treatment.

Radiotherapy can be in the form of an external beam or may involve implantation of radioactive material. In Britain no radiotherapy unit uses both X-ray and neutron rays in external beams, whereas in some US and European centres doctors say that by using both forms of radiation, they may rid the gland of malignant cells as effectively as with radical surgery.

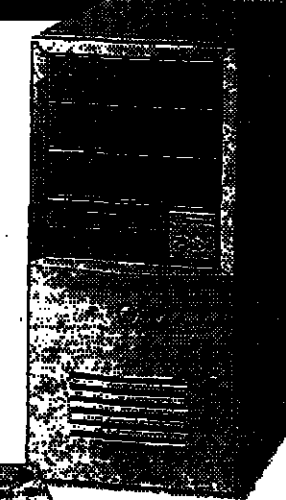
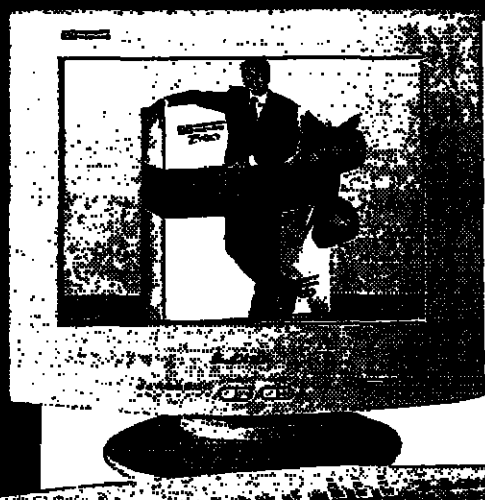
The search is now on to find a way to render these tumours hormonally dependent. Gene therapy could play a part in future treatment, and other work has been carried out in the US and at St George's Hospital, London on the development of a vaccine that may limit the growth in advanced cases.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

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# How James Bond became cool

With Pierce Brosnan in the role again, James Bond has been reinvented for a new generation and he is more fashionable than ever, says Jason Cowley

**Y**ou can say many things about James Bond. You can say, as Kingsley Amis did, that he is a "latter-day Byron", a suave, sardonic quintessentially British adventurer: that he is, as his creator Ian Fleming put it, a romantic "man of war". You can agree with Garth Pearce, head of the James Bond Fan Club, that "most men secretly want to be him — at least for a day"; or with Judi Dench's M, who mocks him in *GoldenEye* for being a "sexist, misogynist dinosaur, a relic of the Cold War".

You can even call him, to echo one critic of *Dr No*, the first in what has become the most successful film series in the history of cinema, a "nasty upper-class thug". But what you cannot do, not if you are one of the two and a half billion moviegoers who have seen one of his films, is ignore him — or deny his importance as a popular cultural icon of vital influence.

For Bond is back, again — and this time he is more fashionable than at any period since Sean Connery played the role, from *Dr No* in 1962 to *Diamonds Are Forever* in 1971. Tonight's world premiere of *Tomorrow Never Dies*, the 18th official Bond film and easily the most convincing since Roger Moore's debut in *Live and Let Die* (1973), coincides with a remarkably sustained revival of interest in all things Bond.

The Internet offers a preponderance of Bond web sites, for which no assorted cultural ephemera is too small — from the number of Bond girls killed in films (20) to listings of favourite gadgets (mine remains the ejector seat, the perfect mechanism for dispatching an irritating girlfriend). Some of the most innovative acts in contemporary pop have recorded *Shaken and Stirred* (in homage to how Bond likes his vodka martini), a tribute album of Bond theme tunes. The techno band The Propellerheads' cover of *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* was a recent Top 10. "There can be few people in the English-speaking world incapable of humming at least one of the title songs," says the *Weekend* journalist Andrew Smith.

Magazines such as *Esquire* have caught the mood, producing special editions celebrating the louche lifestyle of 007: his reckless promiscuity, his decadence. And many student night clubs host their own Bond theme nights, encouraging chubbies dress as

their favourite characters. As York Mobery, professional Bond-watcher and author of a biography of Pierce Brosnan, puts it: "James Bond is seriously cool again. With Brosnan in the role, he has been reinvented for a new generation."

Yet less than a decade ago Bond appeared to have no future. In the time of *Aids*, he was a two-edged sword: anachronism, a frivolous playboy. The closing films of the Roger Moore era — *For Your Eyes Only*, *Octopussy*, *A View to a Kill* — were poorly received, marred by their arch knowingness of tone and by Moore's ham jokes.

His last appearance as Bond, in *A View to a Kill*, was especially comic: a geriatric 007, overweight, his hair thinning and startlingly unattractive. Here was Bond as hollow self-parody. It was a travesty of the original films of the 1960s, with their dark glamour and scripts faithful to Fleming's fiction — *The Man with the Golden Gun* (1977) was the first Bond not to be based on an original novel.

Moore's successor, the English Shakespearian actor Timothy Dalton, although darkly handsome and talented, struggled to relax into the role. "It was as if," says Mobery, "he felt that playing Bond was beneath his considerable talents, as if he were slumming it." His two Bonds, *Living Daylights* and *A Licence to Kill*, could not compete with a new generation of high concept, blue-collar action heroes, like Bruce Willis and Mel Gibson. If the series was to survive, something had to be done — and that something was Brosnan, who clearly relishes being Bond. You can see it in the way he delivers the catchphrases.

Critics have spoken of the dangerous emptiness of the Bond films, and of their patriarchal worldview and vulgar politics. But this is to misread them; for much of the appeal of Bond comes precisely from the fact that he is unbelievable. With his fast cars and gadgets, his casual charm and indestructible strength, 007 carries the force of popular fantasy. As the cultural critic Peter Conrad



James Bond and his leading ladies. Top left Sean Connery, Teri Hatcher, Ursula Andress, Roger Moore and Barbara Bach; Pierce Brosnan and Michelle Yeoh; Timothy Dalton

observes: "The fantasy is a vacant space which can be filled by anybody who wants to feel important."

There is something in this: who, at some time in their lives, perhaps while out skiing or driving a fast car, has not fantasised about being Bond, or one of his many girls? Every fan of Bond has a favourite moment frozen in his or her memory: Diana Rigg skiing in the Swiss Alps in *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, a dripping Ursula Andress emerging from a tropical ocean with a knife strapped to her bikini in *Dr No*; Roger Moore (or more accurately, stunt man Rick Sylvester) ski-jumping off a 3,000ft cliff in *The Spy Who Loved Me*.

The films themselves are cannily self-subverting, a collage of camp in-jokes and wry innuendo. You are urged not to take them seriously. *Tomorrow Never Dies* reintroduces an element of humour missing during the Dalton years; but never lapses into the self-parody of late Moore.



Christopher Lee, left, and Roger Moore

For a start, the script is much sharper, and the action scenes have a stark quality of balletic hallucination. The Irish-born Brosnan is well cast as Bond. He combines the danger and athleticism of Connery with the worldliness of the young Moore, who in manner and appearance was arguably closest to Fleming's own model.

Brosnan becomes unconvincing only when he has to run fast, and when he removes his shirt: he may have a blanket of dark chest hair, but he has none of the muscular authority of Connery, of what Albert "Cubby" Broccoli, the late father of the Bond series, called his "animal magnetism which drew males as well as females".

Watching *Tomorrow Never Dies* is a bit like being caught up in a rush-hour crowd: you are swept along by the force of

the narrative. I watched it at a private press view yesterday morning, yet still the audience was applauding the more outlandish stunts and quips.

The film faithfully follows the usual formula of a megalomaniac, this time a media tycoon, whose dreams of global domination are belatedly thwarted by Bond; but there are important and subtle differences. In the post-Cold War world, the new enemy is global terrorism; and in the *Aids* era, casual sex is reduced to a perfunctory minimum.

The voluptuous, sexually complicit babe of past films has also been replaced by a new post-feminist Bond girl, — in this instance Malaysian Michelle Yeoh, who plays a Chinese spy easily the equal of Bond for cunning and bravery. And Bond has, a little uncoolly, become a resolute non-smoker, as has everyone

in the film, not a 60-a-day man like Connery's 007.

Brosnan offers, too, a more vulnerable, humane Bond, one capable of expressing grief and fatigue. In one scene, he lies beside the murdered body of a former lover, humbled by suffering. It is the saddest scene in any Bond picture since the assassination of his one and only wife, played by Diana Rigg, at the end of the underrated *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*.

Connery described playing Bond as a "cross, a privilege, a joke, a challenge. I don't think a single role changes a man so much." The actor may change, but the character remains gloriously unchanging. That is why the title of the new film so resonates — because for Bond tomorrow can never die. He has journeyed beyond death and fashion, entering his own perpetual present of romance and adventure. Time will never wither him, nor diminish his ardour.

● *Tomorrow Never Dies* opens nationwide on Friday

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# Stand up to high-tech blackmail

Anatole Kaletsky explains why your children don't need a new computer

It is tempting, but don't do it. The children may be screaming "more, newer, faster". The building society windfall may be burning a hole in your pocket; the plastic box may even look quite alluring; but before you buy a new computer, stop and take a deep breath.

Think how much you could buy for £1,199, £1,499, or even £2,299. Think how many books, bicycles, videos, holidays, paint-sets, cricket bats, dresses, trainers, Nintendo games, theatre tickets or trips to Disneyland (not to mention donations to Save the Children) are represented by all those thousands of pounds.

People who would not dream of bowing to their child's demand for a £500 mountain bike, who feel they cannot afford a piano, and who think they are too poor for a season ticket to the opera, lose all sense of proportion when it comes to paying for computers. The obvious explanation for this bizarre behaviour, at least at Christmas, is that parents want to do almost anything to improve their children's educational chances.

They are dupes for the hype about information technology because most of them know nothing about computers and because computers are vaguely connected with mathematics, electronics, bulging artificial brains, white-coated boffins and robots. Much the same could, of course, once have been said of crystal radio kits and chemistry sets. But computers have three enormous advantages over all previous scientific toys.

First, they are seen as purveyors of fun (at least by children), rather than of education. Secondly, they offer instant gratification (at least when they work), instead of the delayed gratification which Max Weber and Sigmund Freud identified as the essential feature of the puritan work ethic. Finally, computers are associated with something even more attractive than science fiction and brains: that something is money.

Everyone knows that the world's richest man (Bill Gates, of Microsoft) is involved in making computers and many punters may have the vague intuition that computers have produced more billionaires than any other product in the 1990s. (In fact, glancing through the annual lists of the world's richest people published in *Forbes Magazine* and *The Sunday Times*, it is tempting to speculate that in the financial booms and busts of the next decade, computers may play the same role as property in the 1970s, oil in the 1980s and Japan in the 1990s.)

But even if we accept that the unusual combination of science, fun, money and instant gratification does offer a prima facie case for buying children computers, the original question remains unanswered: why are people prepared to spend so much? It

is not as if a computer has to cost £2,000 or £1,000. In America, where a price war has broken out among the leading suppliers, the public has developed a much more sophisticated understanding of how to use computers. Machines for domestic use now typically sell for less than \$1,000 — equivalent to £600 before VAT. The next big step in the industry's development is going to be the introduction of stripped-down "network computers" (or NCs), designed to cost around \$500 (or £300) and to perform more reliably than today's PCs by taking their programmes and information from the Internet.

Even in technologically backward Britain it is already quite possible to buy a serviceable computer, capable of performing every important educational and small-business function — including word processing, spread-sheet analysis and Internet communication — for £600 or £700. Why, then, do most people spend two, three or four times as much?

Some customers are presumably so rich that the odd thousand pounds is completely irrelevant. There is also a pervasive ethic of using monopoly power to keep prices as high as possible for as long as possible throughout the computer industry, from the chip manufacturers and software writers to the manufacturers of spare parts.

For most people, however, the pressure to buy the newest, fastest and biggest computer probably comes from the children. It is the children who want MMX technology to improve the quality of animated pictures, who insist on hi-fi stereo sound to turn their computers into discos, and who demand advanced graphics cards to play computer games. The question is: why any sensible parent, motivated by a desire to help his child's education, submit to the brain's whims?

It stands to reason that the more advanced the computer, the less likely it is to be used for educational purposes. After all, the more a computer resembles an arcade entertainment machine, the more it will be used for imaginary car chases and war games.

A child who wants to use a computer to write and illustrate stories, or to play games that develop arithmetical and verbal skills, does not need three-dimensional animated graphics and ear-splitting sound. Of course the child may enjoy such optional extras. But are blaring sound, graphics and animated cartoons more likely to help your child to concentrate, or to distract him or her from any rational thought?

If you want to entertain your children, take them to Disneyland, or put them in front of the TV set. If you want them to do learn useful computer skills, buy them the cheapest possible computer. Or better still, why not spend the same money on a few hundred books?



## It could be us, at last

From benefit payments to the lottery, the first faint signs of common sense

What was that sound of pipes squeaking? A thin, uncertain squeak so far, but nonetheless a strangely cheering noise. Perhaps we did, after all, elect a Labour Government. The rake of socialism is starting to level out the sandpit of prosperity, albeit with a light hand. Some of us were starting to worry that it never might, and that the sandpit would be left to the same dreadful old alley-cats as before, the sly, fat muggles whose scratching strips some patches bare, and builds high malodorous mounds of money in well-guarded corners. After all the coysing-up to big business and the cavalier willingness to cut single mothers' benefits, we parous-socialists were starting to wonder what sort of cat we had let out of the bag in May.

But now we are uplifted by the squeaking sound of affluent Sunday-morning commentators saying that a cap on tax relief is "cheating savers", and skit-suited mothers in four-wheel drive runabouts wallowing about their child's benefit. Attaboy, Gordon! Go, Tony, go! Prize the most indelible perks from our grasping middle-class fingers, and direct them firmly towards the poor and towards the infrastructure that we all share. For one am sick of being given £80 20p a month which I do not need while in this rich nation there are children who never see a piece of fresh fruit up close, and whose classrooms leak.

Of course there are borderline cases: if child benefit is to be taxed or (better, in my case) removed, a cautious, gradualist approach is essential. But on the whole it is right to return to the notion of welfare as a safety-net to prevent tragedy, and to combine that old idea with the newer one that it should stop poverty being perpetuated by making sure that children born in its depths are given the ladders to climb out. Give us real welfare, that saves disaster and builds for the future: not the kind which does out tax breaks and unsolicited handouts to the sleek.

But one of the most interesting rakings-down of inequality is the Government's sneaky assault on lottery funds. Some are horrified, but not me: it was high time it happened. The workings of the original 1993 legislation — designed for a far smaller fund — have been getting sillier and sillier. In the early days of the system, when all over the nation once-proud charities and institutions

were learning to master the black art of parading for money to unelected committees, I observed that a Martian would find this very puzzling.

"Surely," he would say, wagging his green, luminous horns in perplexity, "if this money is for the good of all, it should be administered by the elders you have elected to govern? The ones who look after all the other shared money?"

At the time, the problem was how to explain to the Martian just how we felt about an unpopular and exhausted Government, operating in a miasma of sleaze and mistrust and scarred by expensive disasters such as ERM and the poll tax. The way we felt then, trusting them with any new money would have felt like appointing Sweeney Todd to the Food Safety Agency. But now things are different. Although the vagaries of suffrage mean that Mr Blair has not a true majority — no Government has had, lately — his administration still enjoys high regard in opinion polls, and has no serious disgraces to atone for (yet). It follows that the Martian is right: the lottery boards, admirable though their members no doubt are, may well have had their heyday.

There is a limit to the number of high-tech stadia, supertheatres, palatial clubhouses and gussied-up concert halls that one small nation can hold. Besides, the limits on the nature of lottery spending mean that already some of these buildings seem doomed to have nobody to man them or perform in them.

The principle of "additionality" grows ever more burdensome, too. It lays down that money raised by the lottery — by the pound coins and sweet, foolish dreams of ordinary people — must never be used for anything which would otherwise have been funded by the Treasury. You can see how that principle once seemed to be a good idea: but what it means, in effect, is that lottery money

may be used only for frills and gewgaws and not for anything necessary. Unless, of course, it comes via the Charities Board — but that is a hellish cumbersome way to do things.

Now Mr Blair is creeping up on the lottery funds from behind, in what indignant critics term a "raid", but logic says is an inevitable and sensible move. Up till now, the total available amount — £1,272 million to March this year — was split evenly five ways: sports, arts, heritage, charities, millennium. Last Thursday the Government published a Bill adding a sixth category, the new opportunities fund. Now that is to get 13.3 per cent, as against the others with 16.75 per cent each except for millennium, which gets 20 per cent until 1999, and thereafter swops proportions with new opportunities.

In other words, by the end of this Government's term it will be annexing for its own projects — homework clubs, childcare centres, what-ever — one-fifth of the total lottery take. A neat, comparatively painless way of adding £250 million a year to your health, welfare and environment budget.

And why not? Indeed, why not go further, and use more of those hopeful, sweaty pound coins from the corner newsagent to give properly considered and socially useful things to the people who mainly spent them? Why should we tolerate this seedy new culture in which "consultants" are fairly paid to help frame persuasive lottery bids, and creamily elitist, recherche projects designed to appeal to the great and the good take home millions, while the homeless and the truant roam the streets?

It is interesting that one of the first things Mr Blair is buying with his opportunity fund is a network of after-school study centres. Only last year just such a national network, slyly planned by the Prince's Trust and called study support centres, was turned down flat by the Millennium

Commission. It was clearly time for Government to step in, and it has.

Without it, wasteful spending will run wild. The lottery has succeeded beyond all dreams (the highest projection for the first seven years was £9 billion, and there will almost certainly be more than £10 billion). That is just too much money to be entrusted solely to the vagaries of quangocracy.

There is probably a case for continuing the independent boards into the next century, since there will always be aspects of heritage, sport and art which central government cannot be bothered with, and charities which do not reflect the politics currently in power (was it not fun, watching Tory ministers huff and puff at teeny grants to lesbian drop-in centres? And would it not be delightful if the sports board now gave a few hundred to a hunt kennels, just for a laugh?) But their share and their power should be curbed. It is leading to daft imbalances.

Take Norwich: it is getting a new lottery-funded multiscreen art-house cinema so its higher-minded citizens can see *Last Year at Marienbad* to their hearts' content, but it still has no municipal swimming-pool for the health and amusement of everybody else. There is only a private and expensive sports complex well out of town, beyond the reach of pocket-money and pedestrians. The city council's lottery application for a public pool was turned down flat but surely any government, national or local, with a brief to meet needs rather than fanciful desires, would have built a pool first?

Now you think that I am an evil socialist centralist, don't you? You think additionality and quangocracy are safer than Whitehall and Westminster? OK. But try this experiment. Look hard at the queues who scribble numbers and scratch cards at your local checkout. Then look at the town, village or city around them, and find out what the fragmented lottery board system has achieved for these people and what it has failed to achieve.

And ask yourself whether, from what you know of them so far, Mr Blair and Mr Brown could have done better. The answer may be surprising. We all have a healthy mistrust of governments, but they do have their uses.

## Hypocrisy at the Treasury

Peter Lilley asks: should savers trust Geoffrey Robinson?

Last week the Government ran into a hail of criticism for its plans to tax people who have been saving in Peps and Tessas. But this was not just a tactical mistake. It was part of a series of strategic blunders. To attack hundreds of thousands of savers in middle Britain, the very people it had been wooing, was unwise. To single out the people who had saved their tax prudently and withdrawn their tax relief in future was indefensible. To describe people with savings of £50,000 (which will boost their retirement income by just £2,500 a year) as "rich" is, well, a bit rich. And to put up the multimillionaire Paymaster General Geoffrey Robinson, who has savings in an offshore tax haven, to announce that modest savers will get no tax relief in future added insult to injury. Geoffrey Robinson may be a friend of the Bourgeois but he showed he is no friend of the middle class.

Before the election, Gordon Brown said: "A Labour Chancellor will not permit tax relief to millionaires in offshore tax havens." Now that the Prime Minister is giving the Paymaster General his full personal backing for doing just that, we know Mr Robinson's position is "unassailable" — but it remains hypocritical.

Behind these mistakes lies a strategic blunder which began with Gordon Brown's first Budget. What was needed to keep the economy on course was to moderate the growth of consumer spending. If he had restrained consumer spending, the Bank of England would have raised interest rates by less, the pound would not have been so strong, exports would not have been squeezed so much and growth would have been more balanced.

The growth of consumer spending is being fuelled by the £30 billion windfalls from building societies. So the Chancellor should have been encouraging people to save those windfalls. But instead of encouraging saving, he has been attacking it. First came Gordon Brown's pension tax (abolishing tax credits on dividends) and now comes Geoffrey Robinson's savings tax (capping tax relief on Tessas and Peps).

Why have they launched this two-pronged attack on saving? Well Chancellors, especially Labour Chancellors, are always looking for a politically painless way to raise more tax. Most abandon this quest as hopeless since, as Edmund Burke put it, "to tax and to be loved is given to no man". But Mr Brown's advisers thought they had found a way. They observed that though we are taxed when we earn and taxed when we spend, we are not usually taxed again when we save. And advisers cynically predicted that if money was taken from pension funds and savings accounts, people would not even notice — until they retire. The last person who thought he could get away with that was Robert Maxwell.

I did not for a moment imagine that Labour would be so shameless as to put Geoffrey Robinson, who used to be in business with Robert Maxwell, in charge of carrying out the next instalment of this approach. But then they had already appointed as the minister in charge of pensions policy Helen Liddell, formerly Robert Maxwell's public affairs adviser.

The decision to tax savings is not just a breach of Labour's solemn pre-election pledge that "we have no plans to increase tax at all". It flies in the face of the very specific assurances they gave about the future of Peps and Tessas. Alistair Darling, now Chief Secretary to the Treasury, wrote to the *Investors Chronicle* last year to protest that it was "not true" that Labour would abolish Peps and Tessas. He also specifically said that he was "not actively looking at" a £50,000 cap on savings in Peps. Tony Blair himself said on ITN news in April this year that he wanted "to extend the scope of Tessas and Peps" — "the idea that the Labour Party would take action against those is absurd". People are beginning to get used to the fact that Labour takes a very flexible view of its promises.

Will anyone gain from the new Individual Savings Accounts (Isas) which will replace Peps and Tessas? The Government claims small savers on low incomes will benefit. But they get virtually nothing new except easier access to their own money. Isas may simply attract non-savers who want to use them as current accounts.

The Government also makes much of the supposed appeal of Isas to non-taxpayers because of the 10 per cent tax credit. This is an extraordinary cheek. Under the Conservative tax regime those whose incomes were too low to pay tax could keep the 20 per cent tax credit on their dividends. But the Chancellor announced in his July Budget that he was abolishing those credits. To bring back half of it (and for five years only) is an insult.

I do not argue that the previous arrangements were incapable of improvement. But any reform should honour the reasonable expectations of all those who had planned their life savings on the basis of the existing tax regime. Suddenly to tear up that regime is simply dishonourable.

The author is Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer.

## Claws are out

CAMILLE PAGLIA and Beatrix Campbell, the feminist writers, have fallen out in a less than ladylike carping about who truly represents the sisterhood. Paglia, an American, describes her colleague in the sex wars as a "stupid, little mediocrity", while Campbell is said to have called her fellow traveller a "crazy star". The spat, which blew up during Paglia's short lecture tour of Britain last week, reflects a clash between "Barbara Bush" feminism and more cur-stylish traditionalism. The American had turned up at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London to deliver a paper entitled *The Modern Battle of the Sexes* but floundered off the stage in a huff because she thought the audience's questions were too unintelligent. Paglia is now complaining that Campbell, who had been moderating, had done nothing to calm the natty mood that had developed.

Back home in Philadelphia, Paglia yesterday moaned: "After the lecture, Bea came over and said to me 'Your lecture was banal and conservative.' How could she behave with such rudeness? I told her to get out of here. She clearly thought it was her evening, arriving in this hot little pink jacket."

Campbell herself declined to attach her false nails and climb into the mud bath. But her friends were happy to pile in. "Paglia was very abusive. She is one of these crazy stars whose every eccentricity is indulged. God knows why anyone would want to hear her."

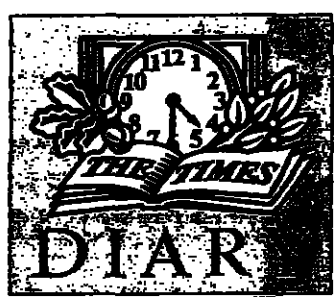


Meow... Campbell, Paglia

She was hardly in a position to accuse the audience of behaving badly. With sisterly love like that, the battle for liberation could take for ever.

### Boeuf Gowrie

AS the brouhaha blew up last week about the Royal Opera House, the Arts Council urgently needed to locate its chairman, the erudite Lord Gowrie. He was, however, nowhere to be found. Then a call was



put through to his chauffeur, who happened to be parked outside Harvey Nichols. Gowrie had, it transpired, made an emergency dash to the Knightsbridge precinct palace to stock up on beef and Borvill before the Government's ban was imposed.

● A GLOSSY document to launch Britain's EU presidency lists the glamorous locations for next year's international meetings: "Panama City, San Jose, Barbados, Prague, Budapest and Macclesfield." The chic little town in Cheshire will put the hunting out for the EU Culture and Audiovisual Ministers' seminar in March.

### Write footer

VINNIE JONES, the Parliament FC coach, is to flex his literary muscles. After my revelation last Fri-

day that the Wimbledon midfielder has agreed to train the Commons football team, I can now disclose that he is writing his memoirs.

The book, as yet untitled, will trace his passage from hod-carrying hard man to football hard man. "It will deal with all aspects of his life that he hasn't forgotten," says his henchman. "Both on and off the pitch."

● AN EMINENT peer has been appointed to advise the Agricultural



IMMORTALITY at last for the defeated Burton, MP. Sir Ivan Lawrence's face now adorns the labels of Ivan Ale, above, a rather potent new range of beer produced by Burton Breweries. His reward? 228 free bottles.

ture Minister, Jack Cunningham, on general matters of food. His name is Lord Eatwell.

### Old devil

A PEER, the son of a celebrated seducer, told me he had been musing on my tale about the date between Lauren Booth and Alan Clark when a piece of anonymous 18th-century poetry had come to mind. "One day a devil having nothing else to do, Went off to tempt my Lady Poltigne. My lady tempted by a private whim, To his extreme annoyance whirled him."

● THE Boring Institute in America has decreed that the Royal Family is the second most boring group of people in 1997. After the events of the past year, I can only wonder what planet the organization's panel of judges has been living on.

### Flying tonight

MIDDLE-AGE has done little to lighten the demands made upon the actress, Jenny Agutter: last night's much-publicised first performance of her latest play, *Peter Pan*, had to be cancelled because it was all too, well, dangerous. The production — an elaborate affair with flying machines and Sir



Agutter: in the wings

Ian McKellen — was due to preview at the National Theatre in London last night. In the interests of cast safety, however, it had to be postponed. "There is a lot of flying involved," says my man in the wings. "Lots of the actors have to fly, even Jenny. She plays Mrs Darling, but she also doubles as a Never Bird, you see." The play, I'm told, is due to take off tonight.

JASPER GERARD





## JOINED-UP POLITICS

A low-rise solution to a high-rise problem

Government departments are like monumental tower blocks on a 1960s housing estate. Designed to fulfil the need for efficient government, they have often produced rivalry and alienation. Council tenants are now being given the chance to rebuild their communities through terraced, low-rise housing: so too the Government is trying to rebuild itself to a horizontal, rather than vertical, design. Yesterday's launch of the social exclusion unit offers, according to Tony Blair, joined-up solutions for joined-up problems.

The cycle of welfare dependency is one of many that cannot be addressed by one government department alone: poor education leads to unemployment, which often causes ill-health, exacerbated by bad housing. Crime breeds in these conditions, as does family breakdown, mental illness and social instability. There is barely a department of state on which these problems do not impinge. Since the attempt to reintegrate the underclass into mainstream society is one of the biggest goals of government policy, Mr Blair might have been tempted to create a new department, a new tower block, to deal with it. Instead, he has gone for the more flexible low-rise option.

This unit is not the first inter-departmental working group to have been set up in Whitehall. Often the chief motivation has been public relations rather than real political change. This one may prove to be no different. In the past, however, they have tended to be staffed by relatively junior ministers, able to be sidelined by the people who mattered. The social exclusion unit will be chaired by the Prime Minister himself and is packed with enthusiastic and ambitious Blairites, among them Stephen Byers, Alun Michael, Tessa Jowell, Barbara Roche and Peter Mandelson. Its home, the Cabinet Office, will be next to No 10. And it will contain expertise from outside Whitehall, the voluntary sector, business, the police,

and the social and probation services. Whether this approach can create joined-up policies on the ground will not be clear for some time. Teenage criminals usually start as problem children, who can be identified long before they are excluded from school. A number of different agencies and voluntary bodies could help such children and their parents before the police have to become involved. Yet, in the long term, it is the Home Office and local authorities that will save money if these children's behaviour problems can be sorted out before they turn to crime. The new unit will have to create small networks all over the country that replicate the cross-departmental web of cooperation now set up in Whitehall.

The prospects for a co-operative approach by tower block departments is better than in the past. Ministers are still fresh to office and some are slightly sickened by the turf-war mentality that has been traditional in their departments. A new generation of permanent secretaries, with wider experience in different jobs than their predecessors, are a little less wedded to the old loyalties.

The Prime Minister, meanwhile, is trying not to become too bogged down in day-to-day matters, in order to free time for a few important priorities. Mr Blair is attempting to emulate Margaret Thatcher, who took one big policy at a time, such as trade-union reform or privatisation, and pushed it hard from No 10.

This form of centralisation within Whitehall is probably the only way to ensure that a government's best intentions are actually put into action. But it has one serious danger. If the idea, like this, is a good one, the backing of the Prime Minister will help it to succeed. But if the occupant of Downing Street is both all-powerful and determined on a foolish solution, it will scupper either him or his Government. Baroness Thatcher had her poll tax. Mr Blair should never forget it.

## WELCOME TO TEHRAN

Iran attempts a regional return to influence

Princes, emirs and presidents have been arriving in Tehran for the largest international gathering in the Islamic Republic since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Virtually every member of the 55-nation Islamic Conference has sent a minister to the summit, and Iranian officials have been cordially greeting Saudi, Iraqi, Palestinian and Gulf leaders whom only a year ago they were denouncing as corruptors of Islam, aggressors, capitulationists and American stooges. For Iran, this meeting is a strike against American attempts to isolate Tehran and a demonstration of its new-found regional muscle. For the Arab world, Iran's silky new diplomacy evokes wariness but also hope that its terrorist intrigues may be on the decline. For the West, the occasion provides clues to the continuing struggle between modernisers and Islamic diehards for the soul of the country.

The summit is an important test for Muhammad Khatami, the relatively reasonable new president, elected in the teeth of opposition from the religious Establishment and clerical opportunists. He must demonstrate not only that reforms can win friends, but that toning down of revolutionary rhetoric has given Iran a broader base from which to fight international ostracism. Having summoned the world's press to listen, Iran could only lose by using the host's platform to parade the anti-Western, revolutionary Islam that has undermined the peace of its near neighbours. Iran's wretched economic straits also make it imperative to persuade potential investors and oil explorers that Iran could be a stable, mature and profitable market.

Mr Khatami could be helped by the tough speech that Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-

General, will deliver today. In it, he refers bluntly to "the increasing resort to violence and terror" in the name of Islam and speaks of the duty of Islamic leaders to restore "tolerance and justice to their rightful places" in their societies. This is a speech directed at Ayatollah Khamenei, the supreme Islamic leader, at the street gangs controlled by hardliners who beat up reformist students and intellectuals, and at ignorant and corrupt clergy attempting to sabotage cautious moves to liberalise the economy and the social climate.

Mr Khatami needs a success. So far, the large majority, especially the young, that voted for him in the belief that he would loosen the straitjacket of their lives has been disappointed. Change has been minimal. The hardliners control most levers of power — radio and television, Parliament, the security forces, the supreme leader's institutions, the Friday prayers preachers and key sectors of the economy. They are waiting for Mr Khatami to slip, ready to force his resignation and a take-over by Iran's "expeditionary council" while they attempt to delay elections for a successor.

Mr Khatami has only people power on his side. Their impatience was on display when football fever spilled into the streets last week. For fear of a vicious backlash, he must move slowly. That applies as much abroad as at home. He will not attempt a volte-face over Middle East peace, anti-Americanism or Islamic zealotry so long as he and his allies are unable to confront the religious police or question the obscurantist legal code. But Mr Khatami can tone down the propaganda and send out conciliatory signals. The Islamic summit is a pious forum for such pragmatic politics.

## WOODROW'S WORLDS

A flamboyant man of our times, old times and *The Times*

Woodrow Wyatt was one of our last cavaliers. Without him, the world will be a more prosaic place — to be precise, three worlds, politics, the media and racing. Had he concentrated on any one of these, his energetic and pungent personality might have propelled him into a starring role. As it was, on the political stage he enjoyed playing a character part — kingmaker, seer or advocate — but never the lead. A distinguished broadcaster and columnist for this newspaper and the *News of the World*, he relished being "the Voice of Reason" rather than that of "sweet reasonableness". He lacked the wealth to dominate the turf, but there too, as a charismatic chairman of the Toie, he left controversy in his wake. His death severs one of the last links, not only with the Atlee Government (in 1945 he was the youngest Labour MP), but with a flamboyant style of British public life which is fast disappearing.

His public persona was that of a showman, who relished the brickbats of his numerous detractors as much as the plaudits of his patrons. Yet Wyatt's most effective work was often done behind the scenes: he was a consummate conciliator, fixer and manager. That a right-wing Wykehamist such as Gaiskell could become leader of the Labour Party in 1955 was due least to Wyatt, who paid for his services with his seat. Though his part in exposing Communist infiltration of the engineers' and

electricians' unions earned him the undying hatred of the Left, Wyatt was trusted by both unions when they were ostracised by Labour and the TUC during the 1980s.

Many of Wyatt's unpopular causes now look prophetic. He alienated Gaiskell by proposing an alliance with the Liberals to defeat the Tories; quarter of a century later, Tony Blair took his advice. His campaign against the renationalisation of steel ensured his marginalisation during the Wilson years, but helped to keep the flame of private enterprise burning. Having failed to achieve high office in the 1960s, Wyatt lost his seat in 1970 and had to earn his living in business and by his pen, thus saving him from the high-minded dogmatism of his peers such as Roy Jenkins, Tony Crosland, Michael Foot and Tony Benn. Never a Tory, he was more loyal to Margaret Thatcher and John Major than many who were.

As a journalist, Wyatt cultivated a blimpish manner, an impression not entirely dispelled by his languid drawl, his bow tie and cigar. Yet he could write with the debonair charm of the adventurer he always remained, and though he had his share of vices, dullness was not among them. He had a generous understanding of the young. Like all gamblers, he often showed more passion than prudence. In the steepchase of politics, he always backed more winners than losers. Whatever the stakes, Wyatt never forgot the thrill of the race.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Single mothers' right to live on benefits under review

From Professor Richard C. Whitfield

Sir, Libby Purves ("Blair's Babes in the wood", December 2) understandably castigates the apparent silence of new Labour's 101 women MPs concerning the Government's misplaced strategy for early childcare.

Public policies that do not respect the fundamental need of children to be securely attached to at least one special parent figure are a poor investment and fly in the face of extensive research findings.

Secure attachments in early and later childhood are more likely to be established if parents are given recognition, resources, status and support, in preference to extensive substitute care. Arms of the State, or more private markets, simply cannot provide children with reliable enough love.

Insecure attachments, exhibited by over 40 per cent of young children in westernised societies, tend to lead to a wide range of costly social problems. Miserly attitudes towards parenting only compound these and have no economic or psychological foundation.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD WHITFIELD  
(Education and human development consultant),  
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richard@whitfield.u-net.com  
December 2.

From Mr Rupert Sanders

Sir, All credit to Alison Miller (article, "Standing up for single mothers", December 4) for playing the system to maximum advantage for her family, but as we enter an era in which the number of net contributors to the funding of society is decreasing and the demands for funds spiralling, she did not make a good case for the preferential treatment of single mothers versus the needs of the elderly, education, pensions and the health service. The decision to give up work lest

she lose the "attachment between a mother and child" seems at odds with the subsequent decision to send both her sons to boarding school, and the amount of money she receives in benefit is significantly more than the amount taken home by my wife who works full-time in the NHS.

Many couples with children have to work full-time to achieve a decent standard of living. They do not have the choice to be full-time parents as the lost earnings will not be replaced by state benefits if one partner is working.

Should they both give up work?

Yours faithfully,  
RUPERT SANDERS,  
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talents@clara.net  
December 4.

From Mr Trevor Berry

Sir, I found Alison Miller's complaint about the Secretary of State for Social Security's decision (report, December 4) to tackle escalating costs unconvincing. She does not say whether the father of her children (her former husband) has died; so whatever happened to the Child Support Agency?

Yours truly,  
TREVOR BERRY  
(President, Families Need Fathers),  
10 Hardy Close, Bromley, Kent.  
December 4.

From Mrs Baba Hobart

Sir, Alison Miller has managed to present an entirely reasonable argument that very much needed to be voiced. I think it goes a long way to explain the dilemma that single mothers often find themselves in and I hope it causes those more fortunate to understand and sympathise.

Yours sincerely,  
BABA HOBART,  
12 Brunswick Gardens,  
Kensington, W8.

From Mr J. A. Greenspan

Sir, It seems to me that the question Alison Miller is asking is: should I, Alison (and my parents and lover — there is no mention of the ex-husband), pay for my lifestyle and the education of my children at private boarding school, or should the taxpayer pay?

My answer is quite unequivocal and is, I suspect, the same as that of the majority of taxpayers.

Yours faithfully,  
J. A. GREENSPAN,  
76 Vernon Avenue, Rugby,  
December 4.

From Miss Anna M. Bruce

Sir, I respect the decision Dr Fiona Cornish (letter, December 1) made to go back to work after having children but I do not think it has much relevance to the situation a single mother finds herself in.

Most of us have not got the qualifications to get a job which pays enough for even the cheapest child-minder, never mind a nanny "who does an excellent job".

People who can afford such nannies can also afford to pay for their tax and national insurance. Meanwhile, the "after-school clubs" Dr Cornish admires do not help mothers with very young children. I struggled to pay £2 an hour for child-minding when my son was a few months old. He received no individual attention, so I did not feel guilty about giving up work. Why struggle in a job which brings no satisfaction, only to see your children suffer?

There are many families in this country who would be only too glad to enjoy "single academic salary". Dr Cornish should count her blessings.

Yours faithfully,  
A. M. BRUCE,  
Flat 2, 49 St Mary's Avenue,  
Hemingbrough, nr Selby, Yorkshire.  
December 1.

### Major challenged on Opera report

From Mr Jonathan Labrey

Sir, Despite John Major's legitimate concern (letter, December 8) about the content of the culture select committee's report on the Royal Opera House, it seems to me that the report's style — highly readable, with clear lines of accountability and unambiguous conclusions — is the way forward if the electorate are to re-engage their sympathies with the people who represent them. Too many reports emanate from Parliament that allow self-interested interpretation (or wriggling).

This report represents a welcome shift away from the double negatives, innuendo and immense length that have often allowed the misrepresentation of Parliament in the country. Let us hope that select committees continue to be robust in style, provoking a serious response from the executive and a debate outside. In the end, where taxpayers' money is at stake, it is a matter for the public, not just for Members of Parliament.

Yours faithfully,  
JONATHAN LABREY,  
13 Hogarth House,  
Erasmus Street, SW1,  
December 8.

From Mr Kenneth Parry Brown

Sir, Your leading article on foxhunting on November 28 [see also letters, November 26 and 28, December 1 and 5] sensibly concludes: "In the months to come there must be hard thinking from open minds."

Mr Michael Foster, MP, claimed in the Commons debate (report, November 29) that the aim of his Bill is the prevention of cruelty. I have been in correspondence with Mr Foster since August asking him to explain what differentiates the cruelty inflicted on fish by anglers from that inflicted on mammals hunted by dogs and those who control them; and why it is politically correct for three or four million people to get pleasure from the sport of inflicting pain on fish, but incorrect for a smaller number to get pleasure from the sport of hunting.

Mr Foster's last two-sentence letter to me reads: "The tone of your letter reveals your motive, trying to protect the cruel and barbaric activity of hunting with dogs. You may not like my answer, but I'm afraid that is your problem not mine."

I fear that we cannot look for hard thinking or an open mind from Mr Foster.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY LOEHNIS,  
139 Ladbroke Road, W11,  
December 3.

From Mr Michael Willoughby

Sir, May I congratulate you on the good sense in your recent editorials on foxhunting (November 28 and 29) and underline the argument for freedom of choice and liberty.

It is undeniable that those working in agriculture who have responsibility for the management and welfare of wildlife wish to maintain the choice of whether to allow hunting on their land or not. Those who see themselves as the best custodians of their livestock and wildlife by permitting hunting should have their view respected.

We farmers are already suffering as a result of the protection afforded badgers, and this is a prime example of a law created without enough rural input or respect. We must not be subjected to more bad law introduced for political reasons and lack of respect for the larger picture of British wildlife that hasn't got cuddly fur.

You suggest the Government should initiate a Countryside Commission to examine every aspect of field sports including foxhunting. If this really is required, I suspect at great cost, it must have a lack of any bias and the respect of all parties: both might be difficult. I know, however, that farmers must maintain freedom of choice, and that where hunting continues there will be benefits to the local economy and to the countryside we treasure under the banner of liberty.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL WILLOUGHBY,  
The Estate Office,  
Birdsall, Malton, North Yorkshire.

### Wolsey invoked

From Mr Patrick Walsh

Sir, What a wonderfully solemn letter from the Lord Chancellor (December 5). Sidney Smith observed that it "requires a surgical operation to get a joke well into a Scotch understanding". It would never have occurred to him that a Scot might actually make one of his own accord.

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICK WALSH,  
Highclere Farm,  
Highclere, Hampshire,  
December 5.

### Revision of legal aid

From the Chairman of the Bar Council and others

Sir, Geoff Hoon, Parliamentary Secretary at the Lord Chancellors Department (letter, December 4; see also letters, November 19, 26, December 2) emphasises the Government's willingness to listen. We write then, on the eve of the debate in the House of Lords, to express again our concern about the Government's proposals to replace legal aid with "no win, no fee" agreements in most cases claiming money or damages.

The people who will lose under these plans are those currently entitled to legal aid. People on low incomes will not be able to afford the costs of legal insurance, or to pay for essential expert evidence. The Government must provide precise details as to who is going to bear the responsibility for paying the up-front costs of litigation. Also it is not clear whether these proposals will lead to a significant increase in access to justice.

We hope the Government will hear the serious and widespread concerns being expressed and undertake further research — for which there is not enough time under the timetable proposed — to ensure the system works fairly in the interests of consumers. Government should not withdraw legal aid from those currently eligible to receive it unless it can be sure they will be better off under any alternative and that there will be greater access to justice, not less.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT OWEN,  
Chairman, The Bar Council,  
RICHARD BREWSTER,  
Chief Executive, Scope,  
RUTH EVANS,  
Director, National Consumer Council,  
ASHLEY HOLMES,  
Head of Legal Department,  
Consumers Association,  
ROGER SMITH,  
Director, Legal Action Group,  
PHILLIP SYCAMORE,  
President, The Law Society,  
The General Council of the Bar,  
3 Bedford Row, WCL,  
December 8.

### Life expectancy rates

From Dr Veena S. Raleigh and Dr Victor A. Kiri

Sir, Your report (December 5) on our research into regional variations in longevity could give the impression that external causes, such as accidents and suicide, make a more significant contribution to overall mortality figures than do cardiovascular disease and lung cancer.

In fact, other than in young adults, the reverse is the case; and deaths from violence and drug addiction play an even smaller role.

Yours faithfully,  
VEENA S. RALEIGH,  
VICTOR A. KIRI,  
University of Surrey,  
Department of Epidemiology,  
Guildford GU2 5YD.  
v.raleigh@surrey.ac.uk  
December 6.

Business letters, page 31

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.  
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

### Robocop and zero-tolerance policing

From Inspector John Anthony

Sir, Much publicity has been given to "Robocop" (whatever that is supposed to mean) Ray Mallon, "the zero-tolerance expert" [reports, December 2, 3, 6 and 8].

"Zero-tolerance" is an emotive American expression used to describe a policing response in America to American crime problems.

The principle is not new in this country. Until fairly recently officers, at least in the Met, systematically kept the streets clear of drunks and beggars, arrested and brought before the courts all persons where the evidence was sufficient; in fact we had an arrest mentality in relation to all areas of disorderliness. We did not have a general public drug problem until public opinion, as represented by very liberal pressures, demanded that we become tolerant to its use. We used to arrest persons who had committed criminal activity as "suspected persons". This offence was abolished after campaigns by media and pressure groups, resulting from misunderstanding and misrepresentation of its provisions.

We don't arrest drunks because the facilities are not there to deal with them. We don't arrest beggars because courts criticised us for doing so. Home Office guidelines direct us to caution many offenders for disorderly behaviour instead of placing them before a court. We have very great difficulty in dealing with the more trivial offences of drug-dealing because of the inordinate resources needed to gather the necessary evidence. We attempt to resolve neighbourhood anti-social behaviour with one hand tied behind our backs because the relevant procedures are slow and largely ineffectual.

During the last two years we have made major efforts to reduce crime and disorder in the centre of Camden Town, with considerable success, but at some expense to the policing of the rest of our division. I believe we can reduce public-order offences; but non-tolerance of unlawful behaviour is

what we used to practise; now treading on eggshells is our main concern.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN ANTHONY,  
Metropolitan Police Service,  
Kentish Town Police Station,  
12a Holmes Road, NW5,  
December 3.

From Mr Adrian M. Shryane

Sir, Cleveland's Assistant Chief Constable states: "Zero tolerance is bigger than one man" (report, December 2). It should be, it is not.

In New York, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani was recently re-elected (report, November 6) because he, and his police commissioner, gave the citizens what they wanted: zero tolerance. Crime rates have now fallen; citizens have increased freedom to walk the streets. I recently saw for myself police officers everywhere, visible, doing their job, preventing crime.

What of London? I recently travelled from Islington to Chiswick one weekday afternoon. I only saw one police car, one police motorcyclist, and two young constables trying to catch motorists travelling in a bus lane. Was this a "zero presence" policy?

Yours faithfully,  
ADRIAN M. SHRYANE,  
Apartment D4,  
Atlantic Bay, St Piran's Road,  
Perranporth, Cornwall,  
December 3.

From Mr J. R. Collins

Sir, I must admit to feeling some misgivings about a policing policy of zero tolerance, especially when such a policy is being directed and operated by an officer who puts in a minimum 80-hour week, who finds difficulty in staying away from it all even on Christmas Day and is known as Robocop.

Yours faithfully,  
J. R. COLLINS,  
63 Gordon Close,  
Knowle Green, Staines, Middlesex,  
December 3.

### Electoral commission

From Councillor Ian Johnson

Sir, It is not simply the welcome appointment of a commission to review electoral arrangements for Westminster that is fascinating, but also the selection of its members (reports, December 2).

The Prime Minister has again demonstrated his ability to make inspired choices.

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead is a natural chairman, has a good relationship with the Government, a sense of history and undoubted political skills; his appointment could thus have been expected.

The inspiration seems to me to lie in the inclusion of Sir John Chilcot, the retiring Permanent Secretary at the Northern Ireland Office. Anyone who has been able to cope with the competing interests in Northern Ireland should find that dealing with mainland politicians on issues of, essentially, fairness and common sense is a piece of cake.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN JOHNSON  
(Liberal Democrat,  
Woking Borough Council),  
2 Wheatseaf Close, Woking, Surrey,  
December 2.

### Off limits

From Mr S. J. Wood

Sir, I feel cheated by the retrospective aspect of the 15a proposals announced last week (letters, December 6). After all, at the general election Tony Blair advised voters to place their trust in "new Labour", not in the Channel Islands.

Yours faithfully,  
S. J. WOOD,  
6 Normanton Street,  
Brighton, East Sussex,  
December 8.







**PROFESSOR  
CARL G. HEMPEL**

invigorated by criticism. It worries over much about mistakes. Knowing that democracy on argument, the B.B.C. encourages discussion on all vital issues impartially on all sides. It is a great national forum. The recently spread that the B.B.C. had agreed to accept advertising agencies in New York were the offers of lush advertising. Though he was no prophet, he was surprised if the British Government would approve of the kind of commercial broadcast-

invigorated by criticism. It worries over much about mistakes. Knowing that democracy on argument, the B.B.C. encourages discussion on all vital issues impartially on all sides. It is a great national forum. The recently spread that the B.B.C. had agreed to accept advertising agencies in New York were the offers of lush advertising. Though he was no prophet, he was surprised if the British Government would approve of the kind of commercial broadcast-









# Winners celebrate a good month's work

## The story so far...

Another month gone in ITF. Then, yes, and another month without any prize money. I'm considering lying about my age and trying to get a team into the youth league.

Or lying about your gender and getting into the women's league?

Enough lies are told about my gender already, mate. Student league?

Does the University of Life count?

Probably not. Still, you know what real-life managers in your position do at this stage of the season, don't you? Enlighten me.

They concentrate on the cup.

Oh yes, the FA Cup draw. I saw it on Sunday. Some great ties there.

And Peterborough versus Walsall. Even Barry Fry found it hard to summon up any enthusiasm for that one.

But there are some classic confrontations — Portsmouth against Aston Villa, for instance. A fallen giant, struggling in the league.

Is that Portsmouth or Villa?

Er, both, I suppose, now you come to mention it. It could go either way, that one. Whereas Arsenal against Port Vale looks a bit of a home banker.

Get some Arsenal players in your ITF team, then.

Oh, do FA Cup games count in the ITF leagues?

Yes, but there's a separate FA Cup league too, which you are entered for automatically. Players in your team get points based on their performance in cup games — and there are replays, of course, so you there are extra opportunities to score points if you're extra about the players you pick.

But that means I'll use up the 20 extra transfers I get next Saturday extra quickly.

Simple. Enter a fresh team just for the FA Cup, chosen with cup fixtures in mind.

Good idea. But what if all my players are with clubs that go out in the third round?

Now that would be unlucky — or, of course, an example of completely hopeless team selection. Not even you... No, cancel that. What you would have to do then is transfer players in who are with clubs that have gone through to the fourth round.

And if that doesn't work? I would have used up all my team's transfers, wouldn't I?

Then you do what managers in the real world do in the same situation.

Which is?

Concentrate on the league.

For November's winner, the £1,000 prize was reward for skilful transferring and careful record-keeping



George Millington, the £1,000 November winner, whose team, Survivors, accumulated 223 points, saw an opportunity and took it. "I realised I had a chance of winning for the month of November, so I thought I might as well go for it," Mr Millington said. "Even if I didn't win, I would go up the rankings and have fun. I used a lot of transfers, and it's worked out well."

Mr Millington, who keeps meticulous records, has used 58 different players from 23 different clubs, but has based his success on four semi-regulars: Marco Negri, John Harrison, Gary Pallister and Nigel Winterburn.

"I've had Negri in every game he's played," he said. "I've transferred him out when Rangers haven't played, and I've only left Harrison out once. He scored while he was out of my team, but in the meantime I got ten points from Olsson and seven points with Larsson and then transferred Harrison back in." Canny scrutinising of fixtures meant that Mr Millington was able to maximise his profit from his players. "I've scored 31 from Pallister, although he's got 29 at the moment. I transferred him out for the last two games in favour of Matt Elliott, who scored me 13. I transferred Winterburn out when he had 27 points because I knew Arsenal had four hard games. Instead I used Boyd, Jones and Guppy and scored 19."

Mr Millington, a long-time supporter of Sheffield Wednesday, also used 17 different

midfield players last month, for a return of 77 points.

Other winners include Mr David Ho, of Liverpool, who came out on top in the Internet section thanks to the same familiar names in his team, UK's Best Five: Peter Schmeichel, Elliott, Neil McCann and, inevitably, Negri.

The same names appear in

**HOW IS YOUR TEAM DOING?**  
Call the ITF  
Checkline on  
0891 884 643

50p a minute, using a Touchtone telephone. Public telephones cost twice as much

Lewis Boys II, the team chosen by Daniel Lewis of Edgware, Middlesex, the monthly winner (with 178 points) and current leader of the youth league. He receives a signed football, a Mitre sportsbag and tickets to the premier league game of his choice, as does Margaret Johnstone of Greenock, the winner of the women's league.

Mrs Johnstone, who supports Glasgow Rangers, decided to "give it a bash" this year for the first time with the help of James, her son, and the not inconsiderable assistance of the point-scoring of two Rangers players, Jorg Albertz and, of course, Negri. Also currently in her team is Regi Blinker, a Celtic player. Any soul-searching there? "It's for the points," she said. Mrs Johnstone hopes to use her pair of tickets to a premier league game at the next Old Firm encounter at Ibrox; she expects James to assume custody of the signed football.

Tim Gardner, of Banbury, whose entry, "6 Chumbawumbas" has been a regular in the upper reaches of the students' league, scored 162 points over the month to win the monthly award for the section. His transfer record includes considerable rotation among goalkeepers — David Seaman, Gilles Rousset, David James and, finally, Keith Branagan of, have all appeared. But, you ask, is Marco Negri in his team? Silly question.

**NICK SZCZEPANIK**  
ITF helpline: 01582 702720.



George Millington, right, £1,000 richer, receives his award from Wednesday's Andy Booth

## FAXBACK: YOUR UP-TO-DATE TEAM SCORES

The brand new Times Faxback service provides you with a complete results sheet of your team, showing current and total scores, dates, times and details of transfers, as well as your position in the ITF League and, if appropriate, your mini-league (women's, students, youth). Scores and transfer confirmations are updated by 12 noon on the day following a match or matches.

Make sure you have your ten-digit PIN number ready when you call. To obtain an ITF Team Faxback, simply pick up the handset of the fax machine and dial the telephone number below. If your fax does not have a handset, attach a handset or press the on-hook or telephone button instead and dial the number below. Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked. Calls cost £1. per minute and are available in the UK only.

The number to call for your Faxback is:

**0991 111 333**

If you have any problems operating this service, call the Faxback Helpline on 0171-412 3795. This service is provided by Telecom Express, Westminster Tower, London SE1 7SP.

## LEAGUE UPDATES

ITF LEAGUE	PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE
£50,000 top prize £3,000 monthly prize	Professionals choose their fantasy team
STUDENTS' LEAGUE Monthly prize of premiership tickets, signed football and sports bag	YOUTH LEAGUE Monthly prize of premiership tickets, signed football and sports bag
WOMEN'S LEAGUE Monthly prize of premiership tickets, signed football and sports bag	

## WOMEN'S LEAGUE

1 S Whitfield	496	Snail Busters	496
2 B Fletcher	493	Ab Fab	493
3 C Purdy	492	Kate Cosmo	492
4 S Brooks	468	Sandra's Specials	468
5 J Gardner	467	IS Chumbawumbas	467
6 H Irvine	458	Hel's Belles	458
7 C Purdy	457	Games Upstairs	457
8 S Reader	453	Sophie Reader Fa	453
9 P Johnston	453	XII Superstars	453
10 A Beam	450	Harry's Heroes	450
11 P Sloan	449	Paulo Uld	449
12 M Hussain	444	Good Luck Malika	444
13 K Tindall	440	Flash XI	440
14 T Fern	437	Over The Moon	437
15 A Adoch	437	Fantasy Wolves II	437
16 J Peppar	435	Peppar Poes	435
17 M Hienbrow	435	The Brexians XI	435
18 L Fraser	434	Linda's Lagers	434
19 J Lumsdaine	434	Ajax Leamington	434
20 P Bee	433	Bumble Five	433

## STUDENTS' LEAGUE

1 N Wheatley	546	H D G Is A Sad Waster	546
2 G Wilson	523	Dog Soldiers	523
3 N Wheatley	511	Witheridge Is Ill	511
4 T Gardner	503	6 Chumbawumbas	503
5 N Wheatley	476	A Tight Horse Is Fun	476
6 C Marjanecak	476	Jansen's XI	476
7 J Gardner	467	IS Chumbawumbas	467
8 J Winderat	465	Father Shaboooboo	465
9 J Frost	454	Variety Sports Inter	454
10 J McGill	451	The White Helms	451
11 F Ferguson	450	Saucy Sue Barker	450
12 P Herson	448	Hensonbumbas	448
13 Steven Shipley	447	Set Against	447
14 Z Teer	447	Ziggy Greaves XI	447
15 M Griffiths	441	The Town	441
16 E Carmichael	435	Jedi Masters	435
17 C Van Hough	434	The Boy Sprouts	434
18 R Lee	432	Maxwellsmarvels	432
19 J Liversidge	432	Real Ramsbottom	432
20 HK Gujadhur	430	Hem's Eleven	430

## YOUTH LEAGUE

1 D Lewis	528	Lewis Boys II	528
2 M Sonzopala	487	Horley Flames	487
3 R Wicke	481	Robbed	481
4 M McPhillips	477	Ballygallyrovers	477
5 C Marjanecak	476	Jansen's XI	476
6 J Gardner	467	IS Chumbawumbas	467
7 M Roberts	467	Krysonia Threes	467
8 C Oyston	454	The Offspring FC	454
9 J Laurence	444	Smooth United	444
10 J Smith	444	Up The League FC	444
11 D Greenman	443	Theknotorcup	443
12 G Calderbank	440	Calders XI	440
13 K Tindall	440	Flash XI	440
14 R Alden	439	Cornholme Boys	439
15 O Ledgard	438	Olivers Army	438
16 E Swirles	438	Esthers Entertainers	438
17 S Mawer	435	Forest Reserves2	435
18 J Tompkins	433	Joelushoffians	433
19 J Angus	430	Best Of The Rest	430

## ITF LEAGUE

1 Mr M Jones	586	Jb4	586
2 Mr M Jones	586	Jb6	586
3 S Legg	585	Alf-Long Handed	585
4 B Fazzlerley	574	Lic 4	574
5 D Fenton	572	Our Of The Blue	572
6 G Baidrow	570	Rainbows Topham	570
7 Mike Madden	569	Poachers never change	569
8 Malcolm Jackson	567	No name	567
9 Mr M Jones	560	Jb5	560
10 Mr A Colombe	554	Mr Wads XI	554
11 C Sloan	551	Brumingham FC	551
12 Mr D Edbrooke Stainer	551	Ca	551
13 D Shuter	549	Don 2	549
14 D Rows	548	Liberos	548
15 N Wheadley	546	H D G Is A Sad Waster	546
16 Mary Ann Kennedy	540	Don 5	540
17 G Dolan	538	Genies	538
18 George Mijuskovich	537	Big Mac Europe	537
19 P Turner	536	Turners Earners 5	536
20 Mary Ann Kennedy	535	Inverness Undecided	535
21 Chris Forde	535	Game of Two Pins	535
22 S Llew	534	Grone 5	534
23 D Shuter	534	Russell 2	534
24 C Burr	533	Burr's Spurs 4	533
25 P Hewings	532	Turners Earners 6	532
26 AJ Hastings	531	Golden Wonders	531
27 G Millington	531	Survivors	531
28 Dursby	530	This Years Lot	530
29 D Souter	529	CLANS	529
30 P Turner	529	Turners Earners 6	529
31 J Hunt	528	John Hunt Taunton 7	528
32 J Strickland	527	CLANS	527
33 Mr K Lethby	527	Nadar	527
34 A Nevazicki	525	Winstar Warriors I	525
35 Tim Oldfield	525	Robb Boys	525
36 R Calder	525	Shers His	525
37 Mr A Mellon	523	Dog Soldiers	523
38 G Wilson	523	St Remy Strikers	523
39 Graeme Dabnor	523	Novote Spokers	523
40 Barbara Papa a la Bacon	523	Goulou Goulou	523
41 Mulran	522	Britannia Strikers	522
42 Steven Adams	522	Wetherby Racing 7	522
43 Andrew Bates	521	Legion	521
44 G Wood	520	Grone 1a Stars	520
45 Mr M Jones	520	Jb2	520
46 T Gannage	519	Drowned Goldfish	519
47 S Legg	519	Grone 8	519
48 P Turner	519	Turners Earn 5	519
49 Susan Makin	518	Spud 2	518
50 P Rees	517	Yukon Merchants	517
51 P Bown	517	Gen XI	517
52 Philip Ward	517	Warriors Heroes XI	517
53 R Jones	516	Turners Earners 6	516
54 J Hunt	516	Cell Block H	516
55 D Walton	515	John Hunt Taunton 1	515
56 K Parhall	515	Numbury Nuts	515
57 J Hunt	515	Chelsea 6	515
58 P Turner	514	John Hunt FA Cup A	514
59 P Turner	513	Turners Earn 1	513
60 P Lee	513	Miss Marauders	513
61 Mr Dp Knight	513	Knights	513
62 P Turner	512	Turners Earners 10	512
63 Andrew	512	United United	512
64 F Botall	511	Zara 3	511
65 Mr N Wheatley	511	Witheridge Is Ill	511
66 DM Carter	511	Firewood Farm	511
67 J Hunt	511	John Hunt Taunton 4	511
68 J Kitchin	510	Blazen Heads	510
69 W Clark	510	The Warriors (Come out to play	510
70 Brian O'Hare	510	Stevens Yiddies	510
71 Steven Vick	510	Hot Shots	510
72 Mr Mc Ginn	508	Red Scousers	508
73 James Tan	508	Don 1	508
74 D Shuter	508	Hakon Ud	508
75 P Darnell	508	Worms Kelly	508
76 Morgan Kelly	508	Worms Kelly	508
77 Andy Robson	508	Club 18-30	508
78 B Fazzlerley	508	Lic 1	508
79 Mr P Turner	508	Te 1 Cop	508
80 Mr D Burch	508	Alb	508
81 J Hunt	508	John Hunt Taunton 8	508
82 J Headier	507	Enid 4	507
83 Mr W Finlay	507	Finlay's Premier Select	507
84 C Burr	506	Turners Earners 6	506
85 Steve Smith	506	Smiths All Stars	506
86 Richard Callis	506	Sydney Celtic FC	506
87 Mr S Gorce	505	Singing Angels	505
88 Michael Huddleston	505	Pulp Fiction III	505
89 Adam Projohn	505	AM	505
90 V Cox	504	Pegasus And Unicorns	504
91 Philip Ward	504	Ollie's Pack RNC	504
92 C Muller	504	Premier Stars	504
93 G Gardner	503	6 Chumbawumbas	503
94 P Bee	503	Bumble Twelve	503
95 H Prichard	503	Cymru Ann Byth 12	503
96 Jenny Dwyer	503	Nudge Nudge Wink Wink	503
97 C Scarle	503	Rx 506	503
98 J Hunt	503	John Hunt Taunton 6	503
99 J Hunt	503	John Hunt Taunton A	503

## PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE

1 Paul Simpson	380	Derby County/Wolves	380
2 Simon Grayson	366	Aston Villa	366
3 Alf-Long Handed	338	Leeds United	338
4 John Salako	337	Coventry City	337
5 Robert Lee	337	Newcastle United	337
6 Dean Blackwell	333	Wimbledon	333
7 Steve Potts	325	West Ham United	325
8 Jonathan Hunt	325	Derby County	325
9 Rob Seaton	325	Leeds United	325
10 Kevin Lightbourne	325	Coventry City	325
11 Kevin Gallacher	325	Blackburn Rovers	325
12 David Tudor	322	Crystal Palace	322
13 Frank Lehouf	322	Aston Villa	322
14 David Barry	322	Newcastle United	322
15 David Weatherall	322	Leeds United	322
16 Bern Kverne	322	Liverpool	322
17 Tim Brackley	322	West Ham United	322
18 Richard Shaw	320	Coventry City	320
19 David Seaman	320	Wimbledon	320
20 David Seaman	320	Coventry City	320
21 Dean Holdsworth	320	Liverpool	320
22 Phil Babb	320	Aston Villa	320
23 Gareth Southgate	320	Everton	320
24 Dave Watson	320	Manchester United	320
25 Teddy Sheringham	320	Leeds United	320
26 Kevin Hirst	320	Leeds United	320
27 Dennis Wise	320	Chelsea	320
28 Andrew Liddell	320	Barnsley	320
29 Lee Sharpe	320	Leeds United	320
30 Paul Williams	320	Coventry City	320
31 Nigel Martyn	320	Crystal Palace	320
32 John Black	320	Leeds United	320
33 Andy Townsend	320	Barnsley	320
34 Nicky Butt	320	Aston Villa/Middlesbrough	320
35 Jason Dodd	320	Manchester United	320
36 Gary Malbut	320	Wimbledon	320
37 Patsy Keanan	320	Tottenham Hotspur	320
38 Rob Van Der Laan	320	Leeds United	320
39 Chris Powell	320	Derby County	320
40 Ugo Ehiogu	320	Aston Villa	320
41 Lee Dixon	320	Derby County	320
42 Robbie Fowler	320	Liverpool	320
43 Patrick Bergin	320	Newcastle United	320
44 John Black	320	Leeds United	320
45 John Black	320	Leeds United	320
46 Andy Roberts	320	Crystal Palace	320
47 Neil Redfern	320	Barnsley	320
48 Lee Robinson	320	Blackburn Rovers	320
49 Kasey Keller	320	Leeds United	320
50 Steve Clarke	320	Chelsea	320
51 Andy Smith	320	Wimbledon	320
52 Steve Lomas	320	Tottenham Hotspur	320
53 Roger Cross	320	Blackburn Rovers	320
54 John Henry	320	Leeds United	320
55 Darren Fisher	320	Crystal Palace	320
56 John Black	320	Tottenham Hotspur	320
57 Danny Williamson	320	Everton	320
58 John Harrison	320	West Ham United	320
59 David Beckham	320	Manchester United	320
60 Gary Neville	320	Manchester United	320
61 Spencer Prior	320	Leeds United	320
62 Nicky Eaden	320	Barnsley	320
63 Mark Wright	320	Liverpool	320
64 Ian Dowie	320	West Ham United	320
65 Alan Shearer	320	Newcastle United	320
66 Alan Wright	320	Aston Villa	320
67 Gianfranco Zola	320	Chelsea	320
68 Colin Calderwood	320	Tottenham Hotspur	320
69 Lee Carter	320	Derby County	320
70 Marc Edwards	320	Crystal Palace	320
71 Mike Whitlow	320	Leeds United	3



# Guide to players, transfers and revaluations

What happens to players who have been revalued in ITF? Stan Collymore or Ian Walker may have an answer

One weekend on from the second player revaluation of the ITF season, some players seemed set on confounding the experts.

Having £2 million removed from his valuation appeared to have taken an equivalent weight off the shoulders of Stan Collymore, the Aston Villa forward, whose aim in his career so far in the FA Cup has been to be a walking and, very occasionally, running, personification of Churchill's famous words: a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma. His aim was true on Saturday, though, when he scored his first league goal at Villa Park since his expensive arrival from Liverpool during the summer. Villa's 3-0 victory over Coventry City was also good news for the home defence, who had been devalued en masse. A clean sheet was an effective answer to their critics.

Robbie Fowler, too, scored decisively from the penalty spot against Manchester United on Saturday morning, while Robbie Earle, who has not reproduced his excellent form of last season, with the result that his ITF valuation fell from £7.5 million to £6 million last week, was on hand to benefit from a defensive error on Sunday and win Wimbledon's home game against Southampton with an expertly-taken goal.



Others have been intent on justifying upward revaluations. Marco Negri, to nobody's great surprise, became the first player to break the 100-point barrier when he scored the only goal of Rangers' game with Hibernian, while John Hartson, although unable to prevent West Ham losing at Pride Park on Saturday, was in electric form in the midweek win over Crystal Palace. Andy Cole's two goals against Liverpool proved the wisdom of his £2 million price rise.

Not so fortunate were one or two of the bigger names whose stars have dimmed. With Sol Campbell absent from the Spurs defence, Ian Walker, the goalkeeper, achieved, if that is the correct term, a score of minus eleven on Saturday as Chelsea put six goals past him.

**THE DRAW** for the third round of the FA Cup has been made, so it is time for ITF players to turn their minds to the new FA Cup league. Tomorrow's edition of *The Times* will contain full information about this new competition which will run alongside the main ITF league, but with its own prize of £10,000.

Existing teams are entered automatically, but many competitors will want to enter separate teams tailored to the FA Cup and Scottish FA Cup fixtures. Any team entered between now and noon on Saturday December 13 will have 40 transfers (after that date, 20) available to adapt to the progress of the competition (see panel, right, for further details of transferring). So it is worth checking the third-round draw and picking your team as soon as possible.

In addition to tomorrow's details and entry form, factual hints will appear on these pages in advance of FA Cup third round weekend.



Collymore: his ITF devaluation must have inspired him to score on Saturday

## THIS WEEK'S MOVES

There are no changes to the ITF player lists this week.

### HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

- YOU MAY transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.
- EACH TEAM that was entered at the start of the season was allocated 60 transfers for the season and each team registering after that date has its number of transfers reduced by three per week up to next Saturday, December 13. All teams registered before noon that day will be allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered after noon on December 13 will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.
- THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a \* and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.
- YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.
- TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.
- YOUR NEW player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.
- CALLS COST 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628.  
Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
10101	J Leighton	Aberdeen	2.00	2	-5
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	8	54
10301	M Bealish	Aston Villa	3.00	8	36
10401	D Watson	Barnsley	1.00	0	-34
10501	T Flowers	Blackburn R	3.50	3	38
10601	K Branagan	Bolton W	1.50	5	38
10701	S Kerr	Celtic	4.00	0	0
10702	J Gould	Celtic	3.50	7	14
10801	E De Goey	Chelsea	3.00	3	53
10901	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	-5	17
11001	C Nash	Crystal Palace	0.25	0	0
11002	K Miller	Crystal Palace	2.00	-5	29
11101	M Poom	Derby County	1.50	8	28
11201	S Dykstra	Dundee United	2.00	6	9
11301	I Westwater	Dunfermline	1.00	7	2
11401	N Southall	Everton	2.00	0	3
11501	G Rouse	Hearts	3.50	8	46
11601	C Reid	Hibernian	1.50	3	3
11602	O Gottskalksson	Hibernian	1.50	0	4
11701	D Lakovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	7	-4
11801	N Martyn	Leeds United	3.50	8	49
11901	K Kellie	Leicester City	3.00	2	54
12001	D James	Liverpool	3.50	-2	40
12101	P Schmich	Manchester Utd	5.00	3	74
12201	S Howie	Motherwell	1.00	0	0
12301	S Given	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	17
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	8	29
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	-9
12702	P Jones	Southampton	1.00	2	-3
12801	A Main	St Johnstone	0.50	2	18
12901	I Walker	Tottenham H	2.50	-11	23
12901	L Milosavac	West Ham Utd	2.00	-4	4
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	2.50	8	44

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	5	14
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	5	29
20301	E Petit	Arsenal	3.00	4	17
20302	S Staunton	Aston Villa	2.50	4	14
20303	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50	5	16
20304	S Grayson	Aston Villa	2.00	5	17
20304	F Nelson	Aston Villa	2.00	0	8
20401	N Eaden	Barnsley	0.50	0	-3
20402	N Thompson	Barnsley	0.50	0	-5
20403	D Barnard	Barnsley	1.00	0	-2
20502	J Kenna	Blackburn R	3.00	1	27
20503	P Valery	Blackburn R	2.00	0	9
20601	N Cox	Bolton W	1.50	3	9
21001	M Whitlow	Bolton W	2.00	0	4
21002	R Elliott	Bolton W	1.00	0	0
21003	J Phillips	Bolton W	1.00	0	0
21004	T Boyd	Celtic	3.50	3	30
21005	T McGinley	Celtic	3.50	0	2
21006	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00	4	27
21007	G Le Saux	Chelsea	4.00	1	22
21008	D Petrescu	Chelsea	4.00	5	40
21009	C Babayaro	Chelsea	2.00	1	20
21010	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	1	9
21011	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.00	-3	0
21012	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	-2	-6
21013	R Gordon	Crystal Palace	1.50	-3	15
21014	M Edwards	Crystal Palace	1.50	-6	4
21015	J Smith	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	-1
21101	C Powell	Derby County	1.50	5	14
21102	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	0	-3
21103	G Rowett	Derby County	1.50	5	3
21401	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.50	3	-3
21402	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	0	-1
21403	T Phelan	Everton	1.50	4	4
21404	M Ward	Everton	1.50	5	11
21501	G Locke	Hearts	1.00	4	4
21701	D Kerr	Kilmarnock	2.50	4	20
21801	G Kelly	Leeds United	2.50	4	18
21802	D Robertson	Leeds United	2.50	0	34
21901	S Blythe	Leicester City	3.00	-1	20
22001	S Bjornmoe	Liverpool	3.00	-2	3
22002	J McAteer	Liverpool	3.00	0	11
22003	R Jones	Manchester Utd	4.00	0	20
22101	D Irwin	Manchester Utd	3.50	1	34
22102	G Neville	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	14
22103	P Neville	Manchester Utd	3.00	0	14
22201	S Watson	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	14
22301	W Barton	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	16
22302	J Beresford	Newcastle Utd	3.00	-1	6
22303	S Pearce	Newcastle Utd	3.00	4	16
22401	A Cleland	Rangers	3.00	5	21
22402	S Stensness	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	-15
22501	P Blondeau	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	-3
22502	I Nolan	Sheffield Wed	1.50	0	12
22701	J Dodd	Southampton	0.75	0	2
22702	F Banall	Southampton	0.75	0	2
22703	S Charlton	Southampton	2.00	-5	0
22801	C Wilson	Tottenham H	2.00	-4	-7
22802	J Edinburgh	Tottenham H	2.00	-5	-2
22803	S Carr	West Ham Utd	3.00	0	0
22901	J Dicks	West Ham Utd	1.50	0	-4
22902	A Impey	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	-1
22903	T Breacker	Wimbledon	2.00	5	13
23001	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	2.00	5	9
23002	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	2.00	1	2
23003	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.00	1	2

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
30101	B O'Neill	Aberdeen	2.00	0	-20
30201	T Adams	Arsenal	3.00	4	16
30202	M Keown	Arsenal	3.00	5	4
30203	G Grimandi	Arsenal	2.00	0	14
30204	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	11
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.00	5	11
30302	U Ehiohu	Aston Villa	3.00	5	23
30401	A De Zeeuw	Barnsley	1.00	0	-18
30402	A Moses	Barnsley	0.50	0	-18
30403	M Appleby	Barnsley	0.50	0	-3
30502	C Hendry	Blackburn R	3.00	1	23
30503	S Hinchon	Blackburn R	2.50	1	15
30505	T Pedersen	Blackburn R	2.00	0	2
30601	G Taggart	Bolton W	1.50	0	15
30602	G Bergsson	Bolton W	1.00	2	15
30603	C Fairclough	Bolton W	1.00	0	0
30604	M Fish	Bolton W	1.50	3	13
30701	E Annon	Celtic	1.50	0	2
30702	M MacKay	Celtic	3.00	0	2
30703	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.00	4	23
30704	M Ripper	Celtic	3.00	4	29
30801	F Labadie	Chelsea	3.00	1	39
30802	M Durberry	Chelsea	2.50	0	13
30803	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.50	0	-1
30804	B Lambourne	Chelsea	2.50	0	-1
30901	L Doherty	Coventry City	1.50	0	0
30902	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	-2	8
30903	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	-3	-5
31001	A Roberts	Crystal Palace	1.50	0	13
31002	A Linighan	Crystal Palace	0.75	-3	8
31003	D Tuttle	Crystal Palace	0.75	0	0
31004	H Hreidarsson	Crystal Palace	1.00	-5	-1
31101	I Stitts	Derby County	2.50	5	12
31102	J Laurson	Derby County	1.50	0	12
31201	S Pressley	Dundee United	2.00	4	12
31301	G Shields	Dunfermline	1.50	4	-4
31401	S Ellis	Everton	2.00	4	-6
31402	D Watson	Everton	1.50	4	4
31404	C Tiler	Hearts	2.00	5	26
31501	D Weir	Hibernian	2.00	-1	-8
31601	J Hughes	Leeds United	2.50	3	27
31602	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.00	4	15
31802	G Hallie	Leeds United	2.00	0	9
31803	R Molenaar	Leeds United	2.00	0	9
31804	L Staunton	Leeds United	2.00	3	12
31901	M Elliott	Leicester City	3.50	0	47
31902	P Karmark	Leicester City	2.00	0	28
31903	S Walsh	Leicester City	2.50	0	34
31904	S Pryor	Leicester City	2.00	0	9
32001	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00	0	9
32002	D Watson	Liverpool	3.00	-2	11
32003	B Kvarme	Liverpool	3.00	0	21
32004	H Berg	Manchester Utd	3.50	1	27
32101	D May	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	0
32102	G Pallister	Manchester Utd	3.50	1	30
32301	P Albert	Newcastle Utd	2.50	0	8
32302	D Peacock	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	9
32303	S Howe	Newcastle Utd	2.00	0	1
32304	A Platone	Newcastle Utd	3.00	0	9
32401	S Porritt	Rangers	3.50	0	26
32402	J Bjorklund	Rangers	3.50	0	25
32403	L Amoroso	Rangers	3.50	0	25
32404	R Gough	Rangers	4.00	5	4
32501	D Walker	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	-2
32502	J Newsome	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	0
32503	P Atherton	Sheffield Wed	2.00	0	1
32701	R Dryden	Southampton	1.00	0	-5
32702	C Lundekvam	Southampton	1.00	0	1
32704	K Monkou	Southampton	1.00	0	6
32801	S McCuskey	St Johnstone	0.50	0	5
32802	S Campbell	Tottenham H	2.50	0	1
32803	J Stiles	Tottenham H	2.50	-3	1
32804	R Vega	Tottenham H	2.00	-1	3
32901	C Calderwood	Tottenham H	2.00	-5	4
32902	R Ferdinand	West Ham Utd	2.50	0	-3
32903	R Hall	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	0
31403	D Unsworth	West Ham Utd	2.00	4	1
32904	S Potts	West Ham Utd	1.50	0	2
32905	C Pearce	West Ham Utd	2.00	0	0
33001	I Perry	Wimbledon	2.50	5	13
33002	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	2.50	5	14

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)	Week	Total
40101	E Jess	Aberdeen	2.00	1	15
40102	P Bernard	Aberdeen	2.00	0	7
40201	M Overmars	Arsenal	5.50	3	38
40202	P Vieira	Arsenal	3.50	0	26
40203	S Hughes	Arsenal	2.00	0	3
40204	R Parfitt	Arsenal	2.50	3	32
40205	D Platt	Arsenal	1.50	3	18
40301	M Draper	Aston Villa	3.00	3	26
40302	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50	0	24
40401	N Redfearn	Barnsley	3.00	0	34
40402	E Tinker	Barnsley	2.00	0	11
40403	S Sheridan	Barnsley	1.00	0	18
40404	M Bullock	Barnsley	0.50	0	18
40501	J Wilcox	Blackburn R	3.00	3	18
40502	B McKinnay	Blackburn R	3.00	2	19
40503	T Shierwood	Blackburn R	3.00	2	27
40504	G Fittorff	Blackburn R	3.00	-1	23
40601	A Thompson	Bolton W	2.50	0	25
40602	S Sellers	Bolton W	2.00	4	18
40603	P Frandsen	Bolton W	2.00	7	26
40604	M Johansen	Bolton W	2.00	0	4

Code	Name	Team	Cost (£m)
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0345 209030



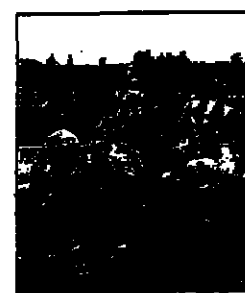
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY DECEMBER 9 1997

1F

## Squeeze on high street sales could bring rate cut

By JANET BUSH  
ECONOMICS EDITOR

BRITAIN'S booming high streets are beginning to feel the impact of higher interest rates, according to a disappointingly weak report on retail sales in November from the British Retail Consortium, published today.

This, together with yesterday's news of a fall in manufacturing output in October, suggests a combination of higher rates and the strong pound is reining in economic growth. Many economists now believe that the next rate move will be downwards.

Ann Robinson, Director-General of the British Retail Consortium, said yesterday that the 4-point rate rise pushed through by the Bank of England's monetary policy committee last month had been a mistake. "Retailers are feeling very, very depressed. During some periods in November some sectors looked very bleak indeed," she said, while the number of pre-Christmas sales and discounts across a broad spectrum of shops was "unprecedented since we climbed out of recession".

The BRC's latest sales monitor showed that the value of retail sales was only 1.1 per

cent higher than in November last year, the worst year-on-year rate since April 1996 when the figure of 0.4 per cent was distorted by the timing of Easter. The 1.1 per cent figure compares with year-on-year rates of 4.9 per cent in November 1996.

Andrew Sentance, chief economic adviser to the BRC, said that the extent of November's slowdown was surprising. He said: "We may see a bounceback in retail spending in the run-up to Christmas. But these figures provide the clearest indication yet that slower consumption growth is on the cards for next year."

Yesterday, the Office for National Statistics reported a 0.2 per cent fall in manufacturing output in October, which was weaker than City expectations of an increase of the same magnitude.

Producer prices figures once again showed the impact of the strong pound, which is helping to keep a lid on industry's prices. Input prices for raw materials slumped by 1.9 per cent in November, coinciding with a sharp rise in sterling. Output or factory gate prices edged 0.1 per cent lower, leaving the annual rate only 1 per cent higher than a year ago.

Michael Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Smith Barney, cautioned against getting carried away by hints of a slowdown in manufacturing but said that these figures at least do not contradict other signs that the economy is decelerating. "There are still risks that wage deals will rise and force base rates higher but we suspect that base rates have peaked and that, with further signs of slowing growth — plus the disinflationary impact of the high pound — the next rate move will be down," he said.

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### BUSINESS TODAY

FTSE 100	5,175	(+44.5)
Yield	3.15%	
FTSE All share	2,628.34	(+18.01)
Nikkei	16,131.57	(+222.91)
Dow Jones	8,130.48	(+18.65)
S&P Composite	983.73	(+0.98)

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5.25%)
Long Bond	100 1/4%	(100%)
Yield	6.11%	(6.09%)

3-month Interbank	7 1/4%	(7.25%)
Life long gilt	119 1/4%	(119 1/4%)
Future (Mar)	119 1/4%	(119 1/4%)

New York	1,647 1/2	(1,658 1/2)
London	1,647 1/2	(1,658 1/2)
DM	2,947 1/2	(2,958 1/2)
FF	9,822 1/2	(9,833 1/2)
SP	215.15	(215.50)
2 Index	104.0	(104.3)

London	1,767 1/2	(1,782 1/2)
DM	5,981 1/2	(5,996 1/2)
FF	1,452 1/2	(1,467 1/2)
SP	215.15	(215.50)
2 Index	104.0	(104.3)

Tokyo close Yen 130.32		
Brent 15-day (Feb)	\$18.30	(\$18.20)
London close	\$897.85	(\$897.85)

\* denotes midday trading price

## Energy dispute threat to RJB contract

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Energy Group, the generator, is threatening to tear up coal deals with RJB Mining in a stand-off with the Government.

The group had agreed to buy 20 million tonnes of coal from RJB over the next five years. However, John Devaney, chief executive, yesterday said that he could call the deal off because the Government's recent moratorium on gas-fired power stations has thrown his strategy into disarray.

The move comes after the Government has asked the three big generators to increase stock piles and take other steps to boost the market for coal. Ministers want to avert a crisis in coal that could threaten eight pits and 5,000 jobs.

Mr Devaney said: "We haven't signed the deal yet — it is a headline agreement. We will sign it when we are ready and that won't be until we know where we stand. We are being asked to do something for the coal industry, but we don't know where we will be in terms of our portfolio."

Mr Devaney is angry that the moratorium — announced last week by Tony Blair to appease the growing coal lobby — prevents conversion of two coal-fired power stations to let them use gas and coal and halts a combined heat and power station. He said: "We want clarification on that and other issues such as pool reform before we can make a decision."

Commentary, page 29

## City bankers fight for 3,000 jobs in £35bn Swiss merger

By RICHARD MILES  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of employees at two City investment banks will have to compete against each other to keep their jobs after their parent companies, Union Bank of Switzerland and Swiss Bank Corporation, merge in a \$59 billion (£35 billion) deal.

Up to 3,000 jobs are to go at the London offices of SBC Warburg Dillon Read and UBS as their new parent, known as the United Bank of Switzerland, integrates the two operations over the next 12 months. The cuts represent just under half of the combined workforces of 6,400.

Mathis Caballavetta, the UBS president who becomes chairman of the new bank, said the integration process was not simply a case of reducing one investment bank to "zero". Instead, the best businesses and the best people would be selected from the existing operations.

The deepest cuts are expected to take place in the back-office and administrative functions, where the overlap between SBC Warburg and UBS is greatest. But the corporate finance and equities teams were given a glimmer of hope when officials said they would entertain offers from potential buyers.

Marcel Ospel, the SBC chief executive who becomes chief executive officer of the combined group, said: "If someone would like to look at some of our businesses or some of our teams then we would listen to them. But it is not part of the integration strategy we have on the table today."

Worldwide, the two banks expect to reduce their workforce from 56,000 to 43,000 as they form the second biggest commercial bank, with assets of nearly \$600



Stairway to global stage: Marcel Ospel, SBC chief executive, left, and Mathis Caballavetta, UBS president, will head the combined banking group

billion (£360 billion). Only HSBC group, the parent of Midland Bank, is larger. The marriage also creates the largest fund manager, with assets of \$920 billion.

The new group will focus on four core businesses: private banking, institutional asset management, corporate and consumer banking and investment banking. The asset management business, including PDM, the UBS subsidiary, will be rebranded as Brinson, after the name of Gary Brinson, the chief executive who sold his Chicago-based fund manager to SBC Warburg a couple of years ago.

Mr Brinson sought yesterday morning to reassure the 420 staff at PDM, one of

SBC Warburg Dillon Read is poised to triumph in its contest with UBS's investment bank as the operations are merged over the next year (Richard Miles writes).

Not only has it bagged the name — the combined operation will be known as SBC Warburg Dillon Read — but its top executives have already landed most of the top jobs.

Britain's biggest pension fund managers, with £60 billion of assets, that there would be no job losses. He told staff that PDM would be allowed to retain its independence over the short term, but added that the fund manager might later

### Dillon Read takes name and top posts

Johannes de Gier, executive chairman of SBC Warburg Dillon Read, is to head the new division, while his former colleague David Solo

becomes joint chief operating officer with Werner Bonadurer from UBS.

The top jobs in equities, foreign exchange and corporate finance all go to SBC Warburg Dillon Read executives: Andrew Siciliano, Markus Granzl and Fritz Hobbs, former chief of Dillon Read, acquired by SBC in May for \$600 million.

of between 15 and 20 per cent, against a current rate of 13-17 per cent. A one-off restructuring charge of \$57 billion taken this year would push both banks into a technical loss for the year, he said.

Pending regulatory approval, the deal will be financed through a share swap. SBC holders will get just over one share per stock, while UBS holders will get a one-for-one trade. SBC holders will control 40 per cent of the stock, UBS's the rest. UBS was advised by Morgan Stanley and SBC by Wasserstein Perella.

City analysts said the merger would accelerate consolidation in investment banking. John Leonard, banking analyst at Salomon Smith Barney, said the deal "opens an entire new dimension to the impending consolidation in the European banking sector."

Commentary, page 29  
Market report, page 30  
Everyday life, page 31

## Amelio gets \$9m payoff from Apple

FROM OLIVER AUGUST  
IN NEW YORK

GILBERT AMELIO, the former Apple chief executive who presided over the decline of the one-time standard bearer of silicon valley, has received a \$9.4 million (£5.6 million) severance payoff. He said the package was "reasonable".

Mr Amelio, 54, was ousted last summer by Steven Jobs, one of Apple's founders, who is pondering whether he wants to take over permanently as chief executive.

Apple was in such bad financial shape when Mr Jobs took over that he was forced to seek a \$150 million cash infusion from Microsoft.

During his 17-month stint at Apple, Mr Amelio lost \$2 billion. His severance package includes an annual compensation payment including bonuses of \$2.6 million.

Mr Amelio said: "To attract people like me to take on tough, almost impossible jobs you have to give them reasonable, attractive packages."

## Loirho courts JCI chief

By JASON NISSE

MZI KHUMALO, the former political prisoner who heads JCI, the South African mining group, is to be offered a senior role at Loirho if the JCI board agrees to a complex £450 million bid from Loirho.

JCI will say today whether it is willing to discuss the bid, which would put back on track merger talks between Loirho and JCI, which has an option over 28 per cent of Loirho's shares. Loirho is

keen to appoint Mr Khumalo to its board because of his connections with Nelson Mandela and the Black Empowerment movement in South Africa. He will be offered a senior post, though not that of chairman.

The JCI/Loirho merger fell apart partially because of the collapse of JCI's share price from 54 rand (£3.10) to a low of 14 rand. Bid talks raised them to 25 rand yesterday.

The deal is expected to involve JCI selling its gold assets to a new company set up by Brex-Kobbe, a JCI director. Loirho would then bid for JCI and sell the coal mining business, Tavistock, to Duiker Mining, in which Loirho has a 61 per cent stake.

This would allow Loirho to buy in JCI's 28 per cent stake in the group and move towards a demerger of mining and hotel interests.

## PDFM must split church fund work with MAM

PDFM, the troubled pension fund manager owned by UBS, is to lose part of the management of the Church of England's pension fund (Caroline Merrell writes).

The board of the £150 million fund is to appoint Mercury Asset Management to manage half the assets alongside PDFM, which has managed the entire fund for 16 years.

Howard Gracey, chairman of the church board, said that

the pension fund had been in the top 10 per cent of funds over the past six years, but added: "Mercury Asset Management's long-term record has also been very good. Their investment philosophy is very different from PDFM, and the two should thus complement one another well."

PDFM has been criticised for switching from UK equities and into cash two years ago, so missing big rises in shares.

## Approach for Christie's

By JON ASHWORTH

CHRISTIE'S International, the fine art auctioneer, has received a friendly takeover approach — but says the terms are not attractive enough.

Responding to a recent sharp rise in the share price, the company said preliminary discussions concerning a recommended offer for the company had now ended. No names were mentioned, but Joe Lewis, the Bahamas-based investor, holds 29.9 per cent in

Christie's — the maximum permissible without triggering a mandatory bid.

Mr Lewis bought into Christie's in 1996 through Abel, his investment vehicle. Shares in Christie's closed up 1p at 250 1/2 p yesterday, having bounced from a low of 224 1/2 p.

Giles Money Courts, of Hambros, joint financial adviser to Christie's, said discussions had been amicable, but the terms were deemed not

sufficiently attractive. Price was not the sole consideration, since the interests of staff had to be considered, he said.

Christie's lifted pre-tax profits by 20 per cent to £19 million in the six months to June, according to figures released in September. The Loeb Collection, including works of Cézanne and Renoir, contributed £57 million to total auction sales of £557 million — up 15 per cent on 1996.

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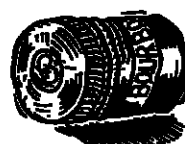
A lot of



(pear)

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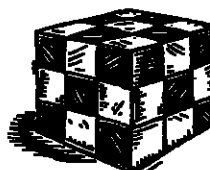
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(bourbon)

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a degree of



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+

a hint of



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# Unions hostile to Brown's call for restraint in setting pay

By PHILIP BASSETT  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

GORDON BROWN, the Chancellor, linked pay and jobs yesterday when he insisted that responsibility over pay settlements was vital to the Government's Welfare to Work New Deal jobs programme.

But his choice of a trade union conference to make his most forthright call yet for pay restraint brought a hostile response from union leaders.

In his pre-Budget statement, Mr Brown included a call for moderation. He chose his speech to the TUC conference on the £2.5 billion New Deal programme for the young and long-term unemployed to forge a link between restraint in setting wages and the prospects for employment growth.

Mr Brown said: "Unemployment can be brought

down through Welfare to Work, tackling skill shortages and bringing more people into work — if we are all prepared to act responsibly."

Britain must not make the mistakes of the past, he said, allowing wage inflation to push up inflation overall, which would lead to interest rate rises with a threat to jobs.

Instead, responsibility over pay would allow for both low inflation and low unemployment. Setting full employment as the key economic goal, he said: "If full employment comes first, then other demands have to take second place. Full employment places responsibilities on us all. It needs new responsibilities to

make it work — accepted by employers and employees."

Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of Unison, the largest union, who was appearing on the same platform, said: "It's a question whether everybody is taking the same responsible approach to pay," citing big City bonuses as clear evidence that some were

not. He told Mr Brown: "When you talk about fairness, Chancellor, we're all for it — so long as it is fair."

Mr Bickerstaffe also questioned the element of the New Deal programme that ensures there will be no option of young people being allowed to stay on benefit rather than take part.

Andrew Smith, the Employment Minister, yesterday announced that self-employed people will be able to take part in the programme. He told the conference that the scheme would be open to people working for themselves.

Ian McAllister, chairman of Ford Motor, emphasised the need for full training under the New Deal, and called on companies to join the Government, unions and others in partnership in the programme. He said: "We have to make this work."

## CBI digs in over strikes

THE Confederation of British Industry (CBI) today urges the Government to ban strikes over trade union recognition where employees are being balloted on the issue under Labour's proposed new laws (Philip Basset writes).

The call comes in an agreement published today jointly by the CBI and the Trades Union Congress, which busi-

ness and union leaders hope will form the framework of the Government's planned legislation giving unions the legal right to recognition where a majority of employees want it. Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, will meet leaders of both organisations today to discuss their proposals.

The agreement includes an

emphasis on reaching recognition deals voluntarily, with a period for voluntary conciliation before any moves to a ballot on recognition. The TUC accepts the move to derecognition ballots.

There are still clear disagreements on statutory recognition, to which the CBI makes it clear today it remains opposed in principle.

## Jarvis lands deals worth £470m

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A MAJOR rail contract and Private Finance Initiative deals worth £180 million were yesterday won by Jarvis, the facilities management, construction and property company. Jarvis will renew track lines for Railtrack in an arrangement that could be worth up to £490 million over five years.

Jarvis will renew the lines in a three-year deal worth £290 million, but the contract could be extended to five years, which would deliver £490 million. The PFI deals cover building properties for University College, London, and Colfax School in Dorset.

Jarvis, whose chief executive is Paris Moayed, acquired Fastline, the rail equipment group, in the summer. That takeover was approved by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) despite strong objections from competitors. Jarvis said yesterday that it was still in discussions with the OFT over how Fastline should be run.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 were £12.7 million, compared with £4.4 million for the nine months to September last year. The company's new year end is March. The interim dividend, due on February 4, increased to 2.5p from 1.6p.



Paris Moayed, of Jarvis, is still discussing the running of Fastline with the OFT

## Aerospace blueprint expected

By ADAM JONES  
AND OLIVER AUGUST

THE Government is poised to unveil its blueprint for consolidation in the European aerospace industry today.

The Department of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Defence are expected to announce plans for a single European aerospace company that would probably start with British Aerospace and aim to include the likes of Dasa of Germany, and France's Aerospatiale.

News is also expected on BAe's application for £120 million in loans to help to launch the new Airbus A340-500 and 600 airliners.

Airbus Industrie announced that the two planes would definitely go ahead at a development cost of \$2.9 billion, even though no UK "launch aid" decision has been published.

The competition from the A340-500 and 600 contributed to a new interruption of Boeing's civil airplane production, after the shutdown of assembly lines in the autumn. Development work on Boeing's ultra-long range version of the 777 was stopped to "refocus" production and to cut costs at the Seattle base.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Quarto shares hit by by profit pressures

SHARES in Quarto, the troubled publisher, fell 32p to 69½p yesterday, after the group admitted that pressure on margins and profits in international markets had intensified. Since last year Quarto's share price has collapsed from 316p, with the company blaming currency pressures in Europe, Asia and Australasia.

Laurence Orbach, chairman, said yesterday: "The end of the year is a very busy time for Quarto, but it is already apparent that we shall not meet the market's profit expectations for 1997." He said that Quarto's core co-edition book business had performed below expectations, with sales falling by more than £5 million, and that there had been setbacks in its art print publishing division and in its UK publishing services division. However, demand for reprints had been strong. "This emphasises the soundness of our overall publishing approach and the strength of our backlist of titles," Mr Orbach said. "We expect steady improvement over the next year to 18 months."

### Midland flying high

BRITISH MIDLAND, the short-haul airline, said it expected 1997 to be its most successful year yet, with pre-tax profits of at least £15 million, up from £6.1 million in 1996. Sir Michael Bishop, chairman, said that in the ten months to October 31 turnover was up 16 per cent at £452.2 million, with traffic up 7.1 per cent at 5.1 million passengers. Sir Michael said the airline was confident of taking on new competition from low-cost airlines, including BA's own.

### API sterling warning

API GROUP, the packaging and specialist coatings company, tempered news of a 29 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £14 million for the year to October 4 with a warning by the shareholders that the strength of sterling, destocking by the tobacco industry and restructuring costs would adversely affect financial results in the first half of the current year. API's annual earnings rose 15 per cent to 36.2p a share. The total dividend rises 10 per cent to 12.1p, with a 7.17p final.

### Select selects Abraxas

SELECT APPOINTMENTS (HOLDINGS), the UK recruitment company, is acquiring Abraxas, a provider of specialist IT recruitment services with offices in the UK, America and Australia, for £27.8 million. Abraxas, which is based in London, has more than 800 contractors on assignment, and placed 400 IT personnel in permanent positions in the year to September 30. In the last financial year, the company lifted pre-tax profits 58 per cent to £1.8 million.

### Lex in Hyundai deal

LEX SERVICE, the automotive distributor, is acquiring the outstanding 49.9 per cent interest it does not already own in Hyundai Car (UK), which has the exclusive right to import Hyundai cars from South Korea into the UK, for £20 million. The business earned £3.1 million operating profits in the first half of 1997, up from £800,000 in the first half of 1996. Lex has managed the business since November 1993, lifting Hyundai's UK market share to 1.2 per cent from 0.5 per cent.

### CRT races ahead

CRT, the specialist training and recruitment consultancy that has expanded quickly through acquisition, lifted pre-tax profits to £6.97 million from £3.37 million in the half-year to October 31. Earnings were 33.6p a share, up from 2.4p, and the interim dividend is lifted to 1.025p a share from 1p. Turnover of £19.2 million, compared with £5.5 million. The company ended the half year with net cash of £49.7 million, down from £108.97 million a year ago.

## Walker sells glimpse of betting future to Serbs

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE

GEORGE WALKER'S fight-back from bankruptcy entered the uncharted territory of Slobodan Milosevic's Serbia yesterday, as the East End entrepreneur gave the Belgrade Hippodrome a glimpse of its satellite TV racing future.

Mr Walker's Cyprus-based Premier Telesport has sprouted another betting affiliate in the former communist bloc. Hippo-Toto, the former chief of the collapsed Brent Walker leisure group hopes that Serbs will take to a flutter on satellite images of races from Britain as readily as punters in Premier Telesport's burgeoning markets in Russia, the Baltics and central Asia.

"There's nowhere in the world that doesn't have a market for people who will gamble on horseracing," said the 68-year-old Mr Walker. Behind him a large screen beamed in repeats of races

from Towcester and Sandown (written in Cyrillic), introduced by a Russian girl in a tight leopardskin dress. An enthusiastic audience of the Serbian racing fraternity and Mr Walker's new east European business associates tucked into a buffet luxurious



Walker: racing by satellite

by any standards, let alone impoverished Serbia. The centrepiece of the grooming spread was a Hippo-Toto logo, described in pieces of glazed beef and a cream-covered mousse.

Mr Walker and his undisclosed partners in Premier Telesport are investing \$4 million (£2.4 million) in the Serb venture, which will begin business next spring with a screening of the Grand National at 100 Hippo-Toto outlets throughout Serbia. The venture is 51 per cent owned by Premier Telesport, which has exclusive rights to satellite transmission of British horseracing in much of the former communist bloc. The rest is controlled by the state-run Belgrade Hippodrome. Mr Walker's family controls 38 per cent of Premier Telesport, which he says is his only business interest.

## Companies face £30bn bill for switch to euro

By OUR CITY STAFF

EUROPE'S largest companies face a total bill of more than £30 billion for conversion to the euro, with an average cost per company of about £19 million, according to a new survey from KPMG Management Consulting.

KPMG researchers found that 62 per cent of respondents had not made any estimate of the total costs of adapting to the European single currency and that, of

those that have made an estimate, only 68 per cent had allocated a budget for handling the conversion.

"The survey also shows that half of European companies believe that the single currency will drive their prices down, but that 77 per cent of businesses still believe that European economic and monetary union will have a positive long-term effect on their profitability."

## TOURIST RATES

Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate	Bank	Rate
Australia S	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71
Austria S	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71
Belgium F	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71
Canada S	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71
Cyprus Cyp£	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71
Denmark Kr	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71
Finland Mk	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71
France F	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71
Germany DM	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71
Greece Dr	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71
Hong Kong S	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71
Ireland P	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71
Italy Lit	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71
Japan Yen	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71	Bank	2.71

## NU pays £17m for Premium

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

FURTHER evidence of consolidation in the motor insurance market was provided by Norwich Union yesterday, when it paid £17 million to acquire Premium Search, the direct insurer.

Premium Search was founded in 1994 by CE Heath, the insurer, and has more than 235,000 policyholders. Brokerage income is expected to exceed £15 million in 1997-98. NU said the acquisition was part of its strategy to develop multichannel distribution. It will bring the number of policyholders jointly managed by Premium Search and NU's Hill House Hammond to a total of 1.15 million, making the new operation one of the largest in the UK market.

Direct Line, the telephone insurer founded and pioneered by Peter Wood, is still the largest motor insurer in the UK and currently has 2.1 million customers.

## Who does the Halifax Bank on?

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# Show time for top dogs



COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

The deal has been signed but what follows from the coming together of UBS and SBC promises to be a messy interlude for thousands in the City. There will be more preening and posturing than you might see at Crufts as brokers and bankers jockey to be judged best of breed and win the dominant positions in the new structure.

Swiss big cheese, Mathis Caballavetta, left enough uncertainties in the air yesterday to ensure deep and widespread discomfort. Establishing that there will be huge cutbacks in the back offices of the two organisations is the easy part of the equation, although one hopes that the new chairman's professed faith in technology is not going to be disappointed. The harder questions are raised by his insistence that the top teams, and even individuals, will have ascendancy and that bids for certain bits of the business might be entertained.

The Warburg franchise is clearly on his winners list, but does that mean that the UBS equities business may be on the market? It is a sizeable operation with some large and loyal clients, and those who worry about the increasing concentration of market-makers in London would be loath to see it vanish completely.

The list of potential bidders for what used to be Phillips & Drew boasts all the familiar names

that looked at BZW and NatWest Markets: Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, JP Morgan, ABN Amro and ING will all be taking a look. The new organisation, named, with all the imagination and flair for which the Swiss are famous, UBS, will surely want a deal to be speedily arranged. Otherwise, if it really is intent on assembling the "best from both" team, it will soon have to set about dismantling the business as integration takes place.

When it comes to judging the best of breed, the chaps at PDM may be feeling just a little nervous. Although no one would want to pre-judge Caballavetta's decisions, it is intriguing that those four initials did not feature in the literature he was distributing yesterday. No, it is already the Brinson division that claims the number two position in asset management in the UK. Brinson? That's Gary Brinson, who has already been designated as head of the international asset management operations.

Although the official line from the grand fringes yesterday was that the London fund management business would be able to retain its independence for a time, the documentation indicates otherwise. The yelps from

PDM may soon equal those of many of their customers, louder again after yesterday's stock market bounce.

Among the major movers were the financial stocks, encouraged to think that more mergers must follow the Swiss example. But no matter how much their shareholders may like the idea there seems no likelihood of the President of the Board of Trade being enthusiastic about a merger of NatWest and Barclays.

## Shop till drop worries retailers

The stock market's exuberance dismissed the gloomy statistics that poured out yesterday. Manufacturing output down and retail sales figures which look downright depressed might have been expected to have put a dampener on things, but investors were either not listening or chose not

to believe what they heard. Less optimistic beings, however, would be tempted to detect evidence here of the start of the downturn that the monetary policy committee has been aiming to engineer with its succession of interest rate rises, this month temporarily put on hold.

Retailers, always a nervous bunch, have been dreadfully scared by the November fall in sales. The majors view their sales figures on a daily basis, and the last month brought some truly shocking returns, with many high street stores recording falls of up to 20 per cent on the previous year. But the joy of living day to day is that a spot of cold weather and a rush to buy warm clothes can bring an instant fillip to the sales chart. It did just that in the final week of November, but it was nowhere near enough to compensate for what had been lost. Most fear that those lost sales are gone for good and that even a good

Christmas, which still seems highly likely, will not be sufficient to lift the profit line to hit the more ambitious budgets.

The pattern is the same from Harrods to British Home Stores. The former is being hit by the fact that Japanese tourists can buy less with their yen than they used to be able to while the high street stores detect that more than the weather is to blame for the closed purses. Higher interest rates are beginning to bite, but job security issues are being raised anew as well. In the City, those who are not collecting huge bonuses are seeing their jobs swept away as the wave of mergers rolls on. In industry, particularly among smaller firms that were unprepared for it, the high rate of sterling is taking its toll and putting a query over job prospects.

Chancellor Gordon Brown continues to utter dark warnings about the knock-on effects of high wage increases, and the message is

probably well understood by the majority, who remain pre-occupied with hanging onto a job. But for the first time since the Government took office, the debate over union recognition has shown cracks opening between the trades unions and the Government. A muscle flexing wage round in the public sector would really threaten the economy.

## Government heaps fuel on coal fire

The Government's desperate attempts to crisis-manage its way out of the coal controversy have come unstuck.

The Energy Group is digging its heels in and plunging the coal industry into even more uncertainty by throwing into doubt key contracts on which RJB Mining was depending. The company wants clarification over a likely energy mix before it makes commitments, and is aggrieved that plans to convert two of its power stations to use gas as well as coal have been halted. It is also upset that a combined heat and power project has been caught in the same gas moratorium hastily announced

by the Prime Minister last week. If the Government wants to interfere in the market and ensure a future for coal, it needs to do so with care. Instead, we are getting policy on the hoof after the political and practical realities of pit closures dawned too late. The policies that the Government is pushing through now may be well crafted from the 1992 Trade and Industry Select Committee report into the future of the energy market.

But the haste associated with firefighting is angering business, which wants to know the full picture of energy options before making commitments. The generators have a duty to their shareholders, not to the coal industry. They would always have played a key role in shaping energy policy. The fact that that policy is being forged out of crisis is strengthening their already powerful hands.

## Walker on wild side

BRENT WALKER was erased from the lists last week but you cannot keep a chap like George Walker down. He appears to understand the exciting business scene in Russia extremely well and is now ready to tackle the equally daunting market in Belgrade. As he prepares to launch into the betting business there, bruised Brent Walker investors may reflect on the theory that buying shares is nothing more than a gamble on management.

# Yule's bid for Holliday promises Peagram £45m

By ADAM JONES

MICHAEL PEAGRAM, the force behind the transformation of Holliday Chemical Holdings, the dye and pharmaceuticals maker, is set to receive £45 million for his 17.7 per cent stake in the company after a £250 million agreed bid from Yule Catto, the chemicals and building products group.

The bid, which offers a mix of cash and Yule Catto shares, values Holliday at 243.2p a share, a premium of about 40 per cent to the closing price of 173.5p on December 1.

Dr Peagram, who is chairman of Holliday, joined the loss-making company in 1985. He led the management buyout in 1987, and the company floated in April 1993. However, the flotation was marred by a profits warning

seven months after share dealings got underway.

If the bid is successful, Dr Peagram will receive about £20 million in cash and the rest in Yule Catto shares. He will be non-executive deputy chairman of Yule.

It was also announced yesterday that Holliday is paying £9 million to settle a legal action brought by Glaxo Wellcome in Spain over an alleged patent infringement in the making of Holliday's ulcer drug component, ranitidine.

The component is used by competitors to Glaxo's Zantac, which is newly out of patent. The settlement gives Holliday's Spanish subsidiary a license to continue supplying customers with ranitidine.

Alex Walker, chief executive

of Yule Catto, said the settlement was "priced" but added that it would clear all the outstanding problems before the Holliday takeover.

Buying Holliday will expand Yule's turnover to about £550 million a year. Yule made a profit of £36.5 million on sales of just over £383 million in 1996. Holliday made £16.6 million profit, on sales of £165 million last year.

Mr Walker said the takeover would allow the companies to compete on a higher level internationally, with a broader product portfolio.

The combined group would continue to focus on profitable niche markets, such as Yule's flavourings and fragrances business, where the product range includes artificial garlic,

and strongly cash-generative activities.

Mr Walker said there was little geographical or product duplication between the two companies, so job losses should be kept below 100. The merged group will be based at Yule's headquarters in Harlow, Essex.

Yule Catto said the deal is expected to be earnings enhancing in 1998. The Yule Catto final dividend for 1997 should be about 6p a share, the company added.

Yule Catto shares closed at 274.5p, down from 306.5p yesterday. Holliday shares fell to 225.5p from 233.5p, having already risen on expectations of a bid being made.

Tempus, page 30

## Energis set to open at about 290p

SHARES of Energis, the telecommunications group owned by the National Grid, are expected to open at about 290p, when they begin trading in London and New York today (Raymond Snoddy writes).

The figure is just past the midway point in the suggested range of between 250p and 325p. A 290p price will value the company, which signed up its first customer in 1994, at £900 million.

There was considerable interest in the flotation, despite turbulent market conditions, and there was three times cover for the 26 per cent of the company on offer. Analysts suggest there could still be some upward momentum in the shares when they start trading on the London Stock Exchange and Nasdaq in the US.

## Celltech chief in Therexsys move

By PAUL DURMAN

CELLTECH, the drug development company whose shares were badly hit by the failure of its lead product earlier this year, is losing David Bloxham, its research and development director, to Therexsys, a firm working in the gene therapy field.

Dr Bloxham, who was also chief operating officer, will become chief executive of Therexsys early next year, with the aim of steering the company towards a stock market listing. Celltech said it would name a replacement soon.

Peter Fellner, chief executive, said Celltech remains well placed despite the failure of the septic shock drug that it was developing with Bayer. Celltech actually received £16 million in milestone payments from Bayer, well in excess of its £2 million share of development costs. Celltech's most

advanced project is now an antibody-based treatment for acute myeloid leukaemia that is licensed to the Wyeth Ayerst arm of American Home Products. Clinical trial results are expected within six months. Peak sales are estimated at about \$200 million.

Increased R&D spending of £20.9 million (£17.4 million) caused Celltech to make a pre-tax loss of £12 million (£3 million) in the year to September 30. However, licensing revenues have risen sharply and Dr Fellner believes the company should be profitable in a couple of years' time.

This month's receipt of £10.5 million from last year's sale of its biologics manufacturing business will bolster cash reserves that stood at £30.3 million at September 30.

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## Nomura lines up pub swap with Bass

NOMURA, the Japanese securities house which has become the largest owner of public houses in the UK, is set to extend its influence over the drinking public with a huge swap deal with Bass (Jason Nisse writes).

Under the agreement Nomura is expected to take on 1,000 of Bass's tenanted pubs in exchange for 200 higher quality pubs. The deal will take Nomura's portfolio up to 5,500 public houses or 9 per cent of all pubs in the UK.

The deal follows the withdrawal of an offer for the tenanted estate by a consortium led by Hugh Osmond, the City financier. It has been held up by some internal opposition within Bass, particularly from Peter Thomas, who runs the tenanted estate.

## Alders turnover up 36% but sales growth slowing

By JON ASHWORTH

ALLDERS, the department stores group that last year sold its duty-free business to Swissair for £160 million, has admitted that the heady sales growth of the last year is slowing.

The group, which has seen its share price languish in recent months, said like-for-like sales were up 9 per cent in the first nine weeks of the new financial year, compared with 12 per cent last year. Good progress is being made in integrating new stores, although the market is expected to remain highly competitive.

Turnover from continuing businesses increased 36 per cent to £491 million, in the year to end-September. Pre-tax profits rose to £23.1 million (£7.2 million), stripping out £33.2 million from the duty-free sale. Earnings per share, after exceptional items, were 21.7p (17.1p). A final dividend of 5p (3.7p) a share makes a total for the year of 26.7p (20.8p).

Eight former Owen Owen stores bought in 1996 from Philip Green, the Amber Day retailer, contributed operating profits of £1.6 million on sales of £92 million. An additional seven stores were acquired in September for £3.8 million from the receivers of Maples.

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Harvey Lipsith, seated, chief executive of Alders, with Stan Kaufman, left, and Rod Ivey yesterday

## Property company head dies

SIR PETER HUNT, chairman and managing director of Land Securities, has died aged 64 after a recent heart operation. He had been chairman since 1987 and managing director from 1978, having joined the board of Britain's biggest property company in that year.

A decision about Sir Peter's successor may be taken today. He was to have been succeeded as managing director next year by Ian Henderson, the present deputy, and was due to retire on his 65th birthday next July.

## Gremlin deal

Gremlin Group, the computer and video games publisher, has signed a co-publishing deal with Fox Interactive to jointly produce sports titles in the US. Gremlin, which floated on the London Stock Exchange in July, currently has three titles in the European game charts - Actua Soccer 2, Men in Black and Judge Dredd. Fox Interactive is backed by 20th Century Fox Studios, which is owned by The News Corporation, parent company of The Times. Gremlin also announced that it had won the exclusive licence to publish within Europe a CD-ROM game version of Tamagotchi, the electronic pets that need care to prevent them expiring.

## Jittery market blamed for more conservative price

# Marchpole flotation to raise £39m

By JON ASHWORTH

MARCHPOLE HOLDINGS, which designs and distributes menswear and buy-sell under licence from Yves Saint Laurent (YSL) Couture, has priced its forthcoming flotation at 110p a share - below earlier estimates.

The more conservative pricing, blamed on a jittery market, will cost Michael Morris, chief executive of Marchpole, about £2 million on paper. Mr Morris would have collected £11 million had the float been priced at the middle of its earlier range of between 120p and 150p, but he will now net £8.8 million. He said the flotation would enhance Marchpole's

status in the UK menswear market, and open the door to opportunities overseas.

Michael Rayner, Mr Morris's founding partner since 1985, who retired last year, is selling his entire stake for £10.4 million.

Dealings begin on Friday. The flotation will raise £39 million for Marchpole, and capitalise the company at £131.4 million.

A spokesman said advisers were seeking to ensure a positive aftermarket, and that the placing was oversubscribed. Institutions expected to be left with disclosable stakes in Marchpole include Mercury Asset Management, Framlington, Garmore and Edinburgh Fund Managers.

Marchpole, based in London's West

End, has been distributing YSL clothing in the UK and Ireland since 1985. It obtained a YSL menswear licence for Turkey in December 1996, and was recently granted a similar licence in Japan, where the menswear market is 7.5 times bigger than in the UK.

Marchpole made a pre-tax profit of £8.2 million in 1996, compared with £2.2 million in 1995. The directors are forecasting a pre-tax profit of not less than £11.1 million in the year to end-December, barring unforeseen circumstances. The placing is sponsored by Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull Securities.

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A HUNGER  
FOR BUSINESS  
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Kenneth O'Hagan  
Relationship Manager

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# Swiss merger raises UK banking sector hopes

THE urge to merge gripped the Square Mile as investors pondered the consequences of the proposed £30 billion merger between Swiss Bank Corporation and Union Bank of Switzerland.

The financial sector was again gripped by takeover speculation as a result, with most investors quick to realise the implications for Britain's institutions.

Takeovers and mergers are envisaged, with some of the recent stories being dragged out and dusted off for another airing.

Favourite to make the first acquisitive move among the speculators is Lloyds TSB, up 25p at 785p, which they claim is poised to bid for Norwich Union, up another 10p at 390p. Some suggest Lloyds has set its sights even higher and may arrange a merger with Prudential Corporation, up 10p at 710p.

Meanwhile, it is hoped Barclays, up 27p at £15.73, may re-open talks with rival NatWest, 58p stronger at 98p. Others to find themselves marked higher after being selected as potential takeover targets included Standard Chartered, up 12p to 770p, Royal Bank of Scotland, 27p up to 572p, Abbey National, 11p up to £10.21, and Woolwich, 8p to 317p.

Northern Rock was also 3p firmer at 518p. Brokers say it could become a constituent of the top 100 companies when the FTSE 100 steering committee meets this time round.

The rest of the equity enjoyed an early mark-up with the help of a subdued set of factory output numbers, helping to take off some of the pressure for another rise in interest rates.

But with Wall Street suffering an early fall, shares in London failed to maintain their early pace. The FTSE 100 index saw early gains halved as it ended the session 44.4 up at 5,187.4.

Capital Radio, unchanged at 500p, should open lower this morning after losing the race for control of Virgin Radio to a consortium headed by Chris Evans, the television presenter. Capital is now free to look for other acquisitions in the sector, which may affect the ratings of its rivals.

Reuters retreated 15p to 716p as brokers began taking a cautious view in the wake of last week's trading update and



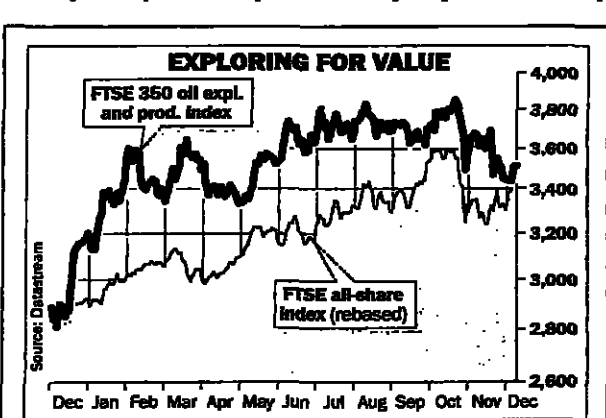
Gerry McQuade, operations director, and Mike Hsieh, of RMS Communications, down 9p on first-half losses

decision to hand £1.5 billion back to shareholders. Profit-taking left Dalgety 6p cheaper at 280p after Friday's speculation that Nestlé, the Swiss food group, was ready to launch a bid.

Yule Catto fell 32p to 274p as it emerged as the bidder for Holliday Chemicals, down 8p at 221p. The terms value Holliday at 243p with 105.3p in

cash and the rest funded by the issue of new shares. Allied Colloids, fighting off a bid from Hercules, the US chemicals group, slipped 1p to 167p.

Christie's International, the fine art auctioneer, touched 276p on learning that it had received a bid approach. It later relapsed to end the session just 1p dearer at 250p.



OIL exploration companies are more profitable these days, depending much less on the oil price. But Robert Fleming Securities, the broker, says the sector's rating has remained unaltered despite a 30 per cent fall in upstream costs.

Given the poor correlation between GDP trends, oil consumption and crude prices, concerns over the price outlook appear exaggerated. The potential for investment returns from oil shares are being overlooked, says Alan Marshall, at Flemings.

He is forecasting \$20 a barrel for Brent crude in 1998 with continuing demand among the leading oil consumers and short falls in non-Opec output proving positive.

Also on its "buy" list is Burmah, up 30p at £10.30 after recent underperformance. While Enterprise Oil's rating fails to reflect its strong performance, Shell rose 9p to 444p ahead of a presentation.

when the company said the talks had ceased.

BTTC continued to reel from its fifth profit warning in three years, losing 3p at 179p.

Speculative buying lifted English China Clay 20p to 285p. There is talk in the City that it may go the same way as Redland, which has just been bought by Lafarge of France. Finistat fell 1p to 331p despite Tomkins, the industrial conglomerate, placing its 5.7 per cent stake in the company with various institutions. Tomkins slipped 2p to 304p.

Whitney Mackay Lewis was steady at 291p, a shade below its high for the year of 30p. Two Middle East businesses are said to be ready with a big cash injection, giving them effective control of the architectural consultant.

AIM-listed Jordec Group firmed 1p to 45p after swinging back into the black last year and some optimistic comments about current trading. But news of increased first-half losses left RMS Communications, where Mike Hsieh is managing director, nursing a loss of 9p at 70p.

Telewest, the cable operator which has been bouncing along the bottom, rallied 6p to 79p on suggestions that US West, which has 27 per cent, was poised to bid. It was the first day of dealings for SeS Upholstery after a placing of shares by Collins Stewart, the broker, at 105p. Trading in the northeast based furniture retailer opened at 112p and touched a peak of 114p before closing at 113p, a premium of 81p.

GLT-EDGED: Those subordinated factory gate prices provided a useful boost to the bond market. The recent trend was also reversed, with long-dated issues outperforming the shorter end of the market in this trading.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt ended near its best of the day with a jump of £13.2 at £119.16, in modest trading, said six just 35,000 contracts completed.

Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 led £7 at £119.4, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was £3.25 better at £101.1.

NEW YORK: Trading was subdued on Wall Street after Friday's 98-point gain. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 18.65 lower at 8,130.48.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 8130.48 (-18.65) S&P Composite 953.72 (-0.08)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 16131.57 (-292.29)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 11722.04 (-195.34)

Amsterdam: AEX Index 926.47 (-5.97)

Sydney: ASX 2587.0 (-25.9)

Frankfurt: DAX 4223.36 (-53.28)

Singapore: Straits 1753.63 (-39.86)

Brussels: General 4285.54 (-22.38)

Paris: CAC 40 2932.47 (-22.38)

Zurich: SMI Gen 1244.90 (-10.90)

London: FT 30 3291.5 (-11.7) FTSE 100 5187.4 (-44.4) FTSE 250 4781.0 (-28.7) FTSE 350 2493.3 (-20.3) FTSE Europe 100 2463.0 (-26.18) FTSE All-Share 2463.24 (-19.0) FTSE Non Financials 2463.27 (-14.48) FTSE Fixed Interest 132.25 (-0.25) FTSE Govt Secs 100.30 (-0.43) Exchange Index 1040.1 (-1.3) Bank of England official rate (4pm) 5.75% LSE 159.5 Oct (3.7%) Jan 1997-100 RPI 157.0 Oct (2.8%) Jan 1997-100

Advance UK TSI 102 +1 BSI 30 +1 Boustead 20 +1 CRC 134 +1 Capital Opps TSI 113 +1 Cresco Int 153 +1 Fling Geared Uts 72 +1 Foresight Tech 25 +1 Forestlight Tech 85 +1 Manchester & Lon 270 +1 Market Link Publ 55 +1 Metalstrust 74 +1 Minnplanet Sys 57 +1 Northern Recruit 132 +1 Nottingham Frst 70 +1 Range Cooker Crpy 6 +1 Rapid Technology 96 +1 Savoy Asset Mgmt 113 +1 SCS Upholstery 131 +1 Shipshape Shipping 25 +1 Second Scot Zr Dy 100 +1 Second Scottish Natl 107 +1 Tera 175 +1

FI Group n/p (640) 205 Green Prop n/p (350) 30

RISER: Total Systems 70p (+11p) OCS Gp 285p (+22p) Select Aps 951p (+54p) Nat West 986p (+58p) TI 527p (+27p) Danka Be Sys 577p (+27p) Rio Tinto 784p (+31p) Royal & Sun Al 806p (+21p) Bank Scotland 572p (+17p) Fish Life 381p (+10p)

FALLS: Yule Catto 274p (-32p) All Nippon Air 255p (-11p) OCS Gp 285p (-15p) Carpathian 480p (-17p) Tesco 518p (-15p) RMC Gp 913p (-22p) Reuters 716p (-15p)

Closing Prices Page 34

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Closing Prices Page 34

YORKSHIRE chemicals companies seem to be challenging the Teletubbies for the honour of being the hottest item on Christmas shopping lists. Only a fortnight after Allied Colloids, the pride of Bradford, attracted a £1.07 billion hostile bid from Hercules, Yule Catto has struck a £256 million deal to buy Holliday Chemical, the dye and pharmaceuticals maker.

On Holliday's 1996 profits of £16.6 million, the offer of 243.2p per share looks expensive, at a p/e of about 22.7. But on a 1997 earnings estimate of £25.5 million, the price multiple looks more reasonable at about 14.6. Yule has only limited scope for eliminating duplication. Immediate cost savings appear to be limited to head office and marketing, but Yule may then look to disposals. Although its building materials division looks an odd

bedfellow, it is unlikely to be sold because of its strong cash generation. Yule believes it needs to be bigger to compete internationally. Holliday's agreement to pay Glaxo Wellcome £9 million to settle a patent dispute that threatened to run and run gives Yule and Holliday a sharp illustration of what it is like to tackle the pharmaceuticals big boys and their big litigation budgets.

There are still high hopes for the ulcer drug component in question, ranitidine, although its future worth is difficult to pin down: new generic rivals to Glaxo's Zantac will increase volume but push down price. Assuming the recommended offer goes ahead, potential investors in an expanded Yule Catto would do well to watch what Michael Pearnan does with his 8.4 million new Yule shares.

Having dispersed most of the money from the duty-free sale by way of last year's special dividend and subsequent acquisitions, the directors now have to stand by their track record in department stores alone.

Alders may claim the sector is undergoing a "renaissance", but sales growth is slowing, and the market remains highly competitive.

Analysts are looking for a pre-tax profit of £25 million next year, up from £23.1 million last time, but still well short of the £40.4 million when duty-free was still part of the package. While nervousness about next year's prospects remains, the shares rate no higher than a hold.

With the risks so great, a portfolio approach is the only sensible way of investing in the biotech sector. At 269p, not far off its low for the year, Celltech continues to look one of the better bets.

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## Customising staff to win hearts and minds

Next week Diageo, formed out of the marriage of Grand Metropolitan and Guinness, will intensify its efforts to explain how the biggest merger in British corporate history will affect its 85,000 staff.

Instead of reaching directly for the corporate megaphone it will employ the subtle art of marketing to convey the good news and the bad to its employees.

As the days of the corporate dictat draw to a close, companies are turning to marketing as a way of selling their hopes and aspirations to the workforce. Television, roadshows, direct mail. In fact, all the techniques normally reserved for marketing to customers are now being turned towards internal communications.

Although the seeds of internal marketing were sown in the late 1980s it is only now that businesses are discovering just how potent

a force internal marketing can be. Rather than confining it to the narrow parameters of communicating corporate objectives its true worth lies in opening a dialogue with workers and enlisting them as champions of the brand.

John Neill, group chief executive of Unipart, saw the value of internal marketing in 1987 when the automotive parts company staged a management buyout and invited its employees to become shareholders.

Long before the concept of the stakeholder philosophy had achieved the fashionable status it holds today Unipart was marketing itself to its workforce. Unorthodox conferencing methods and roadshows were deployed to sell

the share offer. It worked. The offer was twice subscribed and the majority of Unipart employees still hold shares.

To this day Neill argues that internal marketing helped to tap his greatest asset his 4,000-strong workforce. "Our biggest single competitive advantage isn't our brand name. It isn't our customer base nor is it our assets or our technology. It's something that doesn't show up on the balance sheet and it can't be measured or touched," he says.

Unipart's enthusiasm for such management techniques has since been eagerly adopted by service companies in the hope that it can transform them into truly "customer-focused" organisations.

### MARKETING

Lurene Joseph, Shell UK's brand and communications manager, says internal marketing is playing an integral part in the oil group's efforts to do just that.

Months before the launch of a multimillion-pound advertising campaign to promote its 900 Select forecourt shops it canvassed its service station staff for their ideas. Roadshows manned by senior staff travelled the country to work alongside staff and gauge their opinions on what issues Shell's next big advertising campaign needed to address.

Shell's grassroots research

found that customers visiting its forecourts were unaware of the range of products on offer in its shops. The advertising agency then devised a campaign to counter this. However, Shell argues that the real importance of the exercise lay not just in the valuable research but in recruiting the help of its 15,000 staff.

"It's the first time that people in this organisation have felt that they're involved in the running of the company," says Joseph. "It made them really enthusiastic about what they were doing."

While it is debatable whether internal marketing can change your company's fortunes or turn a sales assistant into a sales dynamo after one roadshow, what is

unassailable is that more companies are starting to regard their staff as "customers" in their own right.

Kevin Thompson, a consultant on internal marketing to the Chartered Institute of Marketing reports a significant increase in companies seeking to adopt a more customer-focused approach to their staff.

Increasingly, different departments within a company, such as human resources, corporate affairs and logistics, are turning to internal marketing to get workers to "buy-in" to change.

"An employee is paid to do something. You can tell them to do it but they're not going to give you their hearts and minds. However,

if you treat them more like a customer then you'll find that their ambitions and energy might be channelled into the company," he says.

British Airways, no stranger to poor industrial relations, is investing £4 million this year in the trial of BA TV — a sort of television swap-shop of ideas and opinion beamed to its 60,000 staff.

Kevin Murray, BA's director of communications, says the airline's recent woes have taught it to reassess the way it deals with its staff. "Instead of telling people what we are doing we are asking them if they can make a contribution to change," he says. "We have to air the views of employees, even if those views are not the same as management. At the end of the day we have to let them have their say," he says.

JULIAN LEE

## Swiss marriage proposal is just a part of everyday banking life

Consolidation threatens more City job cuts, Richard Miles writes

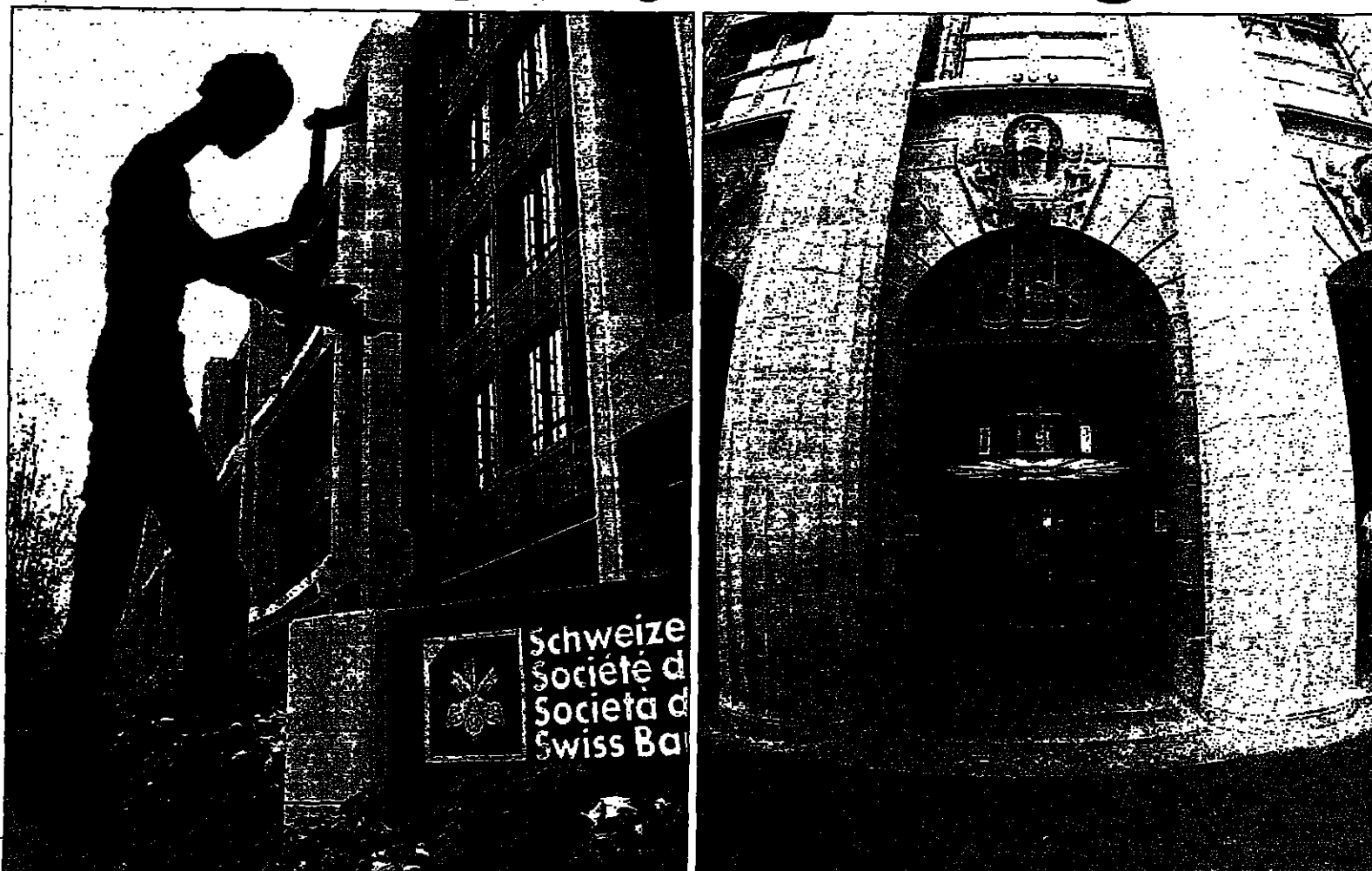
Hardly a week passes in the world of banking without the announcement of another mega-deal. As one industry observer pointed out, yesterday's proposed merger of Swiss Bank Corporation and Union Bank of Switzerland is not "new news": consolidation in financial services is fast becoming a way of life.

Even so, as consolidation goes, the marriage of SBC and UBS is no small affair. By asset size, the union creates the second largest commercial bank in the world, with assets of nearly \$600 billion (£360 billion). Only HSBC Group, the parent of Midland Bank, is bigger in this respect. By market capitalisation, the new group, known as the United Bank of Switzerland, will rank fourth, at \$59 billion.

The new company will also be a powerhouse in other financial sectors, not least in private banking, where the combined operations of the two Swiss banking groups will create the biggest player on the world stage. The United Bank of Switzerland also scores highly in institutional fund management, coming in at number four with about \$340 billion under its control.

Mathis Caballaventa, president of UBS and the man who will become chairman of the combined group, trotted out the usual reasons for the mega-merger: continued de-regulation and intense competition, globalisation of financial markets and services, and the increasing importance and cost of technology. "You know them as well as I do," he told journalists.

But domestic concerns lie at the root of the union. With 2.6 million customers, UBS is the biggest retail bank in Switzerland — said to be one of the most "over-banked" markets in the world — but Credit Suisse and SBC are not far behind, with 2.4 million and 2.2 million customers respectively. All three face stiff competition from the 24 cantonal banks and the Swiss Post Office.



Building a bigger bank: the headquarters of Swiss banks, SBC, in Basel, left, and UBS in Zurich, may soon trade under the same roof

Integration of the bank's two retail operations will provide ample scope for cost cutting. About 5,000 jobs in consumer and corporate banking will go, from a total of 13,000 redundancies worldwide. The Swiss job cuts will be staggered over three to four years, largely so as not to upset the politicians in Zurich and Basel.

No such sensitivity is expected to be shown when the two banks wield the axe at their investment banking operations, which employ 20,000. About 6,000 jobs will go, with London bearing the brunt of the cuts. SBC Warburg Dillon Read employs 3,500 in the City, while UBS has a staff of 2,900 on its books. Up to 3,000 may be out of work by next Christmas. The new-look operation will be rechristened Warburg Dillon Read under the leadership of Johannes de Gier, executive chairman of SBC Warburg Dillon Read.

Given that the combined investment banking operation is to be known simply as Warburg Dillon Read, industry insiders have been quick to conclude that the most savage

cuts will be at UBS. "I bet there are a lot of people polishing up their CVs in Liverpool Street as we speak," said one analyst.

Overlap between the two outfits is said to be close to total in some areas. Both Warburg and UBS have large UK and continental equities teams, swaths of analysts and big corporate advisory arms. And both have their own back-office operations, one of which will surely be sacrificed in the name of efficiency.

UBS does not have a discrete investment banking operation in the way SBC Warburg does. Its philosophy has been to offer such services through its institutional and corporate business division, or through trading, sales and risk management arm. A string of lacklustre years at UBS culminated last month in the announcement of a £125 million provision for losses in its equity derivatives business and the departure of four senior executives. The bank blamed the shortfall on a pricing miscalculation in its options division. But Mr Caballaventa emphasised yesterday that the restructuring of

the investment banking operation would not be a simple matter of reducing UBS or Warburg to "zero". Rather, the banks would follow a best of breed approach to rationalisation.

Inevitably, people in the industry have begun to ask whether parts of the business might be sold off, as both Barclays and NatWest have done with the equities arms of their investment banks.

Speculation over the weekend suggested that JP Morgan might be interested in parts of the business, but the usual list of suspects, including ABN Amro and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, cannot be entirely discounted.

Even after rationalisation, the new United Bank of Switzerland will have the largest European investment bank, and a worthy contender to rival the American groups that style themselves as "global" players. The Dillon Read operation, acquired by SBC Warburg in May for \$600 million — more than three times book value —

already gives the bank a sizeable presence on Wall Street, but the new group clearly has larger ambitions.

Marcel Ospel, the president of SBC who becomes chief executive of the combined group, said the two banks were already the leaders in privatisation issues. The merger, he said, would give them "the critical mass necessary to be a truly global player". But he said there were no specific plans to expand in the US through acquisition.

Joining the "bulge bracket" (the top investment banks with global reach), which includes Merrill Lynch, Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan, will be easier said than done. As the old joke has it, the definition of a global bank can be summed up in one word: "American". No foreign bank can truly claim to have tapped into the US market with any success.

The two banks' own figures indicate the distance Warburg Dillon Read must cover. The two partners rank top in European mergers and acquisitions to date this year, with some \$80 billion of deals completed, but

they trail a poor sixth on the world stage. Morgan Stanley has completed twice as much business, at \$234 billion, while Merrill Lynch and Goldman have similar scores.

While the investment bankers wait on tenterhooks to hear whether they will keep their jobs, the 420-plus employees at PDM, the fund management arm of UBS, have been told they are relatively safe — for now. PDM, one of the UK's biggest pension fund managers with £60 billion under its control, will become part of a new institutional management division known as Brinson, named after its chief, Gary Brinson. He sold his business to SBC a couple of years ago.

But as the pace of consolidation in the industry picks up, can anyone be sure of their future? City bonuses could top £1 billion this year, but the Square Mile is braced for deep pay cuts next year. As David Smith, co-head of UK equities trading at Merrill Lynch, says: "It is a case of making hay while the sun shines. There could be a lot more job losses after Christmas."

### BUSINESS LETTERS

#### Timely reminder that the returns may not always be quite so happy

From C. M. Scarff  
Sir, It was refreshing to read the commentary by your City Editor (December 3) on the proposed new ISA account and the Chancellor's attempt to "scalp" savers of relatively ordinary means.

I do find Mr Robinson's comment about the investors in Peps and Tessa as being "very well-off people" silly to say the least. Investment Management houses and building societies will tell you that those who save the maximum in these plans are the minority. I also know a number of very wealthy people who do not even bother with a PEP because they see a total of £9,000 possible input per tax year as too insignificant to them to even bother about.

At the other end of the scale, it is perfectly possible for people to enter the PEP plan of one leading provider at a level as low as £20 per month or £500 lump sum. I could tell you about some individuals

who do not even earn enough to pay income tax, yet have been paying a £20 monthly minimum for some years now and are quite pleased with the results. I understand that Government sources had some concerns about letting Mr Robinson "front" the launch announcement of the ISA, but decided he was the right man for the job. I wonder if they now regret this? Perhaps he would be better living offshore?

I am not a political animal, but I do hope we are not going to have for some years yet, the "we have a big majority so we don't care" approach. Mr Blair said shortly after the election that this Government were there to serve the electorate. I am sure it was earnestly meant, but perhaps a timely reminder of that comment would not go amiss? Yours faithfully, C. M. SCARFF, 37 Anthony Road, Welling, Kent.

#### Congestion at airports is the real issue

From the Chief Executive of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Sir, Regardless of the rights and wrongs of airport retailing as expressed in the recent heated exchanges between Sir Terence Conran and Des Wilson in this paper, there is a more serious aspect to congestion in Britain's airports.

This year's Healey and Baker survey of Europe's top cities again voted London best city in Europe in which to locate. It was also judged best city for international transport links — one of the main factors, according to the survey, determining business location.

In view of the correlation between quality of transport links and desirability as a business location it is therefore very worrying that Irene Boegerman (Letters, December 3) describes Heathrow and Gatwick as "bewildering, pressurised places". The fact

that air terminals are congested is in part due to the squeeze on airport capacity. Heathrow in particular is operating under strain while the future of a fifth terminal remains undecided. In the longer term the real issue — that of strategically planned airport capacity — cannot be avoided.

Global business needs air travel and the UK needs airport capacity which lies behind the complaints about terminal congestion. The importance of this issue requires a more serious debate. Yours faithfully, SIMON SPERRY, Chief executive, LCCI, 33 Queen Street, EC4A.

Letters to the *Times* Business section may be sent by fax to 0171 762 5112 or by e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk Letters should carry a daytime phone number.

## Straw poll

A FUNNY thing happened in the City yesterday. They held a contested election. Through some awful miscalculation, five people stood for the position of common councillor on the Ward of Cheap, and there were only four places to go: around. The incumbent four, unaccustomed to facing the wrath of the electorate, had been joined by Joe Byllam-Barnes who has stepped in and spoiled their fun by running against them.

Every December the 25 wards in the City hold elections. These mostly throw up as many upsets as in the old Soviet Union, where someone was

once accidentally declared the winner before the polling booths had opened. The more populous wards in the City, where real people live, have a real contest. But the others, such as the Ward of Cheap, population about 100, are spared such indignities, the number of candidates nearly matching the number of empty chairs. I will let you know the identity of the loser, the one who must stand in front of the TV cameras and be forced to admit, in the words of an unsteady George Brown when the voters finally decided they had had enough of him, that "democracy has democked". But there is every chance that this year will be the penultimate round of such farces. The new regime in London is due to arrive in May 2000, so in December 1999 they might as well not bother.

□ I HEAR another Tory grandee has found a seat on the City gray train. Roger Freeman, now Lord Freeman of Dingley after John Major's last honours list, was a highly regarded Minister of Defence Procurement and then became involved in the mad cow disaster. He was democked by the good folk of Kettering this spring and now, as Tory party vice-chairman, spends his time picking over candidate selection procedure. Before becoming a minister he was a senior partner at Lehman Brothers,



and he is about to pop up again as head of corporate finance at a big City institution. So 1997 is not ending too disastrously for him at least.

### Crying wolf

LORD WOLFSON of Sunningdale, chairman of Next and of GUS, is finally having to choose between the two. Ever since he took over at GUS last year from his cousin, Lord W of Marylebone, both companies have insisted there is no conflict of interest despite their involvement in mail order. Now Wolfson has decided to stick with the family firm, GUS, rather than the one he helped to rescue, and Next is seeking a new chairman. What a pity the best candidate in retail, Liam Strong, now chief executive

of WorldCom International, has found other avenues for his talents.

### Air time

DEBONAIR is a low-price airline running a series of advertisements on the London Tube featuring the directors. This is generally fraught with danger — think of those frightful ads you see on TV around sales time with some Dralon-suited carpet warehouse manager enthusing about his sofas. Franco Mancassola, the airline's chairman, was standing on the Tube platform a couple of days ago with Richard Clapson, his finance director, gazing across the rails at an ad featuring the two of them. An anonymous-looking type drifted up to Clapson. "Are you him?" he asked, pointing. Clapson admitted it. The man turned to Mancassola. "That means you're the chairman," he said wonderingly. "I thought all chairmen drove around in Rolls-Royces."

□ SBC AND UBS are making much of the savings that the merger will bring from new technology. The point was rather undermined when Peter Wuffli, SBC's finance director, found he could not work the slide projector at yesterday's London briefing. This followed some trouble with the microphones. His speech had to be cut short. Some might say cut mercifully short. Wuffli is feared throughout banking circles for the extreme length and detail of his financial presentations.

### Flipped

IAN STRACHAN, as chief executive, is the man who has had the lugubrious job for two years now of dragging around the City with his flip-chart explaining why BTR's strategy is such a good one while watching the shares plunge. Friday saw them approach rock bottom, and Strachan has had enough. He has put his flip-chart away and pulled out his cheque book, spending £126,000 on 70,000 shares at 180p each. And he is already out of the money — the market celebrated this gesture of confidence by marking BTR shares back by 3½p to 179p.

MARTIN WALLER



Strachan: charting strategy

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[illegible]







# Men at work, rest and play

Richard Cork admires the National Portrait Gallery's superb exhibition of photographs by Bruce Weber

Until now Bruce Weber was best known in Britain as the photographer who gave Calvin Klein underpants their sex appeal. Hired in the 1980s, Weber ensured that his brazen images of sculpturally muscled men became notorious. They brought provocative male sexuality to the forefront of attention, celebrating homoerotic appeal without embarrassment. The myth of Narcissus was reborn in the form of a sulky toy-boy.

But Weber's large exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery provides a broader view of his activities. Although well-toned young men's bodies abound, few are intended to sell prominently labelled underwear. Some belong to Hollywood stars, all conspicuously handsome. A surprising number, though, are anonymous, encountered by Weber at an Iowa wrestling match, a Boy Scout rally or a street-corner in Soweto. Behind all the restless searching for new locations lies an unabashed romanticism, placing Weber in an American tradition that stretches back at least as far as Walt Whitman's ecstatic determination to "sing the body electric".

Informality is the keynote. When Weber trains his lens on movie actors, he concentrates on emergent subjects whose high spirits have not yet been stifled by professional caution. Leonardo DiCaprio is caught in a playful mood, prancing on a boardwalk with Chaplinesque stick in hand. The youthful Matt Dillon lounges in bed with his woolly socks on, aiming a science-fiction gun at an invisible target.

And the short-lived River Phoenix tugs at his hair on a swing, pulling it down as if to obliterate his own melancholy face. Viewed with hindsight, the gesture seems poignant: Phoenix died of a drug overdose. Weber gives this section of the show an elegiac mood, accompanied by a G.K. Chesterton hymn called *It Is Something To Have Wept*.

For all their air of spontaneity, though, the Hollywood portraits look posed. Their artfulness becomes clear when compared with the wrestling scenes. Here, young bloods in sweat-soaked singlets until they collapse. Shorts emblazoned with slogans like "Refuse To Lose", they grip opponents in gruesome arm-locks. Judging by their expressions, agony is often inescapable. And in one remarkable shot, Weber reveals the apprehensiveness on the intent faces of would-be wrestlers watching two men execute an alarming throw.

Several photographs of figures wrestling on the floor in excruciating positions, re-

minded me of wrestling photographs taken in the late 19th century by the great American painter Thomas Eakins. But Weber's images look far more raw than Eakins's carefully rehearsed pictures. The overall attitude is summed up by the tough words printed on the back of a dirt-stained shirt: "There are two pains in life — the PAIN OF DISCIPLINE and the PAIN OF REGRET."

Beneath this emphasis on manly stoicism, an instinctive interest in rites of passage can be detected. It becomes more overt in *Branded Youth*, the illustrated story which gives the exhibition its name. Written on the gallery walls in a self-consciously boyish script interspersed with meandering doodles, it tells the tale of four adolescents who escape from their home town, Livingston, to a hideaway in "the Bear-moth Canyon of Montana". Trousled-haired and impatient to discover the outside world, they camp round a fire and decide to burn each other on the upper arm with a hot bayonet blade. Weber's photographs are suffused with nostalgia. Now in his early fifties, he seems to be in love with a vision of lost youth and the tribal friendship symbolised by the burnt arms. Far more painful than anything experienced by the tumbling Iowa wrestlers, these self-inflicted scars are seen as a way of cheating time.

In a lighter mood, he turns his attention to the Boy Scouts and savours their more institutionalised rituals. Above their name-badges, the boys' uniforms are embroidered with a rousing command: "Be Prepared For The Twenty-First Century". Weber extracts the maximum amount of entertainment from his affectionate portraits of troop members. One plump scout, his flesh heaving out of his shirt, raises three fat fingers in a cheery salute. His sly grin suggests he is just as aware of the comedy as Weber himself.

But the photographs stop short of debunking. Half satirical and half lyrical, some even depart from Weber's long-term commitment to black and white. These colour shots are frankly artificial, grouping the scouts in dignified assemblages. Clutching staff-like branches and linking arms, they appear happy to replicate old-fashioned poses. Weber seems equally content to lend them an heroic air.

Weber clearly responds to the deep-seated American yearning for the outdoor life. One of the show's best sections is devoted to *My Neighbor John*, a grizzled old farmer in a check shirt pitched against landscapes of awesome immensity. In one picture, he offers his dog some food as



A Chaplin for our times? Bruce Weber's picture of the young movie star Leonardo DiCaprio, photographed at Coney Island, New York, 1994

their shadows lengthen at the waning of the day. Most of the time, though, John is alone. He drives his tractor and handles bales of hay with seasoned assurance. His face, furrowed with crease-marks, looks reserved to the point of shyness. But there is no mistaking Weber's admiration for this isolated man, who regards the camera with a puzzlement bordering on suspicion.

In this respect, he is utterly unlike the actors who expose themselves to Weber's scrutiny. That is why his work proves difficult to summarise. One part of him, the most familiar, is infatuated with virile beauty. Colin McDowell, in his new book *The Man of Fashion: Peacock Males and Perfect Gentlemen* (Thames & Hudson, £29.95), places this side of Weber at the front of a chapter called *Sexing Identity*. McDowell credits Weber with creating a new male type, "as appealing as a newborn bull calf — and roughly of the same level of intelligence".

But there are other aspects of Weber's vision, and they become in the end more rewarding. During a trip to South Africa, he forgets about Narcissus for a while and focuses on unvarnished images of humanity.

On a commercial level, he shows an African man walking past a hoarding where a black family sits at the dining table underneath the words "Breakfast Isn't Breakfast Without Kellogg's Corn Flakes". And on a cultural level, he photographs an African immersed in reading a well-thumbed Penguin edition of *Pride and Prejudice*. But Weber is just as able to capture the unconscious laughter of a teenage girl and the desolation of the townships.

At this stage, his work commands an impressive breadth of feeling. It is most movingly conveyed in two studies of Nelson Mandela's face. One shows the old man smiling, with a generosity and wisdom that goes a long way to account for his country's miraculous rebirth. But the other shows the same features crumpled into seriousness. Mandela's eyes are shut now, disclosing weary folds of skin. His expression grows melancholy, as if in mourning for all those who suffered during the internecine struggles. It is the face of a man who knows that the conflict is not yet over, and yet still permits himself to dream.

● Bruce Weber: *Branded Youth and Other Stories at the National Portrait Gallery (0171-306 0055) until Feb 8*

has not inspired more small-scale selling shows among the dealers. However, Fairy Folk in Fairy Land, across the road at Peter Nahum, is well worth the attention of anyone not half sick of sprites and shadows. A number of the same artists recur, generally on a smaller scale, though there is actually an alternative, only slightly smaller version of Atkinson Grimshaw's extraordinary *Iris Goddess of the Rainbow* (apparently outlined in neon) for any RA visitor who feels he cannot live without it.

Also, Nahum does not confine himself to British artists. Among the drawings is a real rarity, one of the tiny originals of Laurence Housman's illustrations of malign fairyfolk from *Goblin Market*, which makes one regret that Housman gave up on illustration so early.

Peter Nahum at The Leicester Galleries, 5 Ryder Street, SW1 (0171-930 6059) until Dec 20

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

## BRIEFLY NOTED

### Crystal futures

**VISUAL ART:** The avant-garde spirit lives on at the Roundhouse in Camden. Following the installation of a trendy "bouncy castle" at the north London trainshed last March, the art impresario Artangel has commissioned a "crystal palace" to fill the Roundhouse next March. Constructed by the veteran Russian artist Ilya Kabakov and his wife Emilia, this *Palace of Projects* will consist of an epic pavilion including 65 different futuristic visions. Kabakov was an underground artist during the Communist era. His most famous work so far has been a vast installation, *The Way We Live Now*, at the Pompidou Centre in Paris two years ago.

**MUSICALS:** At the Prince Edward Theatre the scene is about to shift from medieval European village to Mississippi paddle steamer. The Boulhilt-Schönberg musical *Martin Guerre* will close on February 28, after an eventful 18-month West End run that included a temporary hiatus while Cameron Mackintosh had the show rewritten. It will be replaced by the classic Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein musical *Show Boat*, in the Hal Prince Broadway production.

**CARTOONS:** Some 2,000 cartoons by Mel Calman, published in *The Times* between 1979 and Calman's death in 1994, have been donated to the Centre for the Study of Cartoons and Caricature at the University of Kent by Calman's daughters Stephanie and Claire. The centre was founded in 1973 and holds over 45,000 drawings for Reg Smyth's Andy Capp comic strip, as well as numerous other cartoonists.

**MUSEUMS:** The Duke of Edinburgh opened a new Gallery of Cypriot Art, financed by the A.G. Leventis Foundation, at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge last Thursday. The museum has extensive holdings of Cypriot artefacts, mostly excavated by British archaeologists last century.

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ALTHOUGH we are now used to contemporary and traditional Australian art, with several London galleries devoted to it, we seldom see current art from New Zealand. So it is difficult to know how typical the art of Tony Lane may be. But it seems a reasonable guess that he could not be typical of anything but himself. In *Veiled From Sight*, his first London show, he emerges as an eccentric, painting his own kind of subject in his own way and his own time.

Not that the word "eccentric" should be taken to imply anything daffy or demented. He is a serious and substantial painter who happens — perhaps because of the geographical isolation of New Zealand — to be painting in a very unfashionable manner. But also in a manner that has never been fashionable.

If one can trace an important influence, it would have to be the classic icon, with its use of gold leaf and its dimensional devices of emphasis and framing. The subjects so treated are never

## AROUND THE GALLERIES

totally cut free from representation: one can still recognise a leaf, a hand, folded paper or draped fabric. But what further we make of them is left up to us. The associations seem to be religious, with overtones of the primitive votive offering. Either way, Lane's effect on the spectator is hauntingly ambiguous, intensified by the exquisite surfaces and fastidious colouring of these jewel-like panels.

*Dreamtime Gallery, 44 Uxbridge Street, W8 (0171-221 0020) until Dec 24*

□ DAVID STERN of Stern Art Dealers must be partial to the Pissarros, since he is married into the family. But clearly from his succession of shows devoted to the less-known members of this artistic dynasty, interest in their doings does not depend on familial partiality. The gallery normally has on show works by the likes of Lucien, son of Camille, and Orovida,

daughter of Lucien, both of whom are reasonably well known, but also by more obscure descendants such as Felix, dead at 22, whom many thought the most talented of Camille's sons.

Last year it was the turn of Ludovic-Rodo, the fourth son, to have his special exhibition, and this year the choice comes round to Paul-Emile, the youngest. He enjoyed a long life (1886-1972) and a modest reputation as a painter. This seems about right. He never became very fluent in oils, but his green riverscapes have a certain charm, and one should probably attribute any awkwardness in his figures to an abortive grappling with modernism.

*Stern Art Dealers, 46 Ledbury Road, W11 (0171-229 6187) until Dec 20*

□ IT IS surprising, close to Christmas as we are, that the Victorian *Fairy Painting* show at the Royal Academy







For 400 years, actors have wondered how to play the Bard's Jew. Heather Neill reports

# Shylock's pounded flesh

In the first production of *The Merchant of Venice*, in 1597, Richard Burbage played Shylock dressed in a red wig. The hair was an important signal: it put Shylock in the tradition of the villain of the medieval mystery plays in which Judas and Satan sported just such a garish trademark. But nothing Shakespeare did was that simple: his Jew had feelings expressed in poetic verse, intelligence, a quick wit and a daughter who betrayed him.

Shakespeare's character has survived, a "real" person complicated enough to be open to interpretation and analysis: yet he was invented at a time when it would not have occurred to audiences to feel any discomfort at the portrayal of a villain with certain stereotypical racial characteristics.

Today, seeing Shylock as a representative Jew, especially in the light of 20th-century history, actors, critics and audiences are faced with a problem. If Shakespeare was as humane as we would like to believe, if he was sophisticated in language and psychology beyond any expectations we may have of his contemporaries, what can he have meant by this portrait of a vengeful, greedy, merciless Jew? It is difficult to ignore the fact that Nazi directors staged *The Merchant of Venice* in Germany some 50 times between Hitler's rise to power in 1933 and 1945.

Some commentators declare the play unstageable now. The Jewish playwright Arnold Wesker has written a companion piece, *Shylock*, which redresses the anti-Semitism he finds in *The Merchant of Venice* and which he advocates should always be acted and studied alongside it. Modern directors deal with the Shylock problem in various ways, usually making him sympathetic, sometimes even turning him into the hero of the piece.

To begin with, 400 years ago, it was different. There were few Jews in Elizabethan England. Edward I having expelled them 300 years earlier, which perhaps added spice to the notion of an exotic alien race, members of which few playwrights would have known. Other villainous stage Jews were common. Marlowe's Barabas (sharing a name with the murderer freed by the mob in preference to Jesus on the eve of the Crucifixion) was a monstrous caricature, although it is fair to say that the Christians in *The Jew of Malta* are a pretty odious lot as well.

During the 18th and 19th centuries all the leading actors tackled "the Jew". Charles Macklin frightened George II

with his savage performance in 1741. In 1814 Edmund Kean broke with the tradition of the one-dimensional villain, and, dispensing with the red wig, impressed Hazlitt with the intensity of his acting. But it was Henry Irving, in 1879, who first invested Shylock with a degree of humanity.

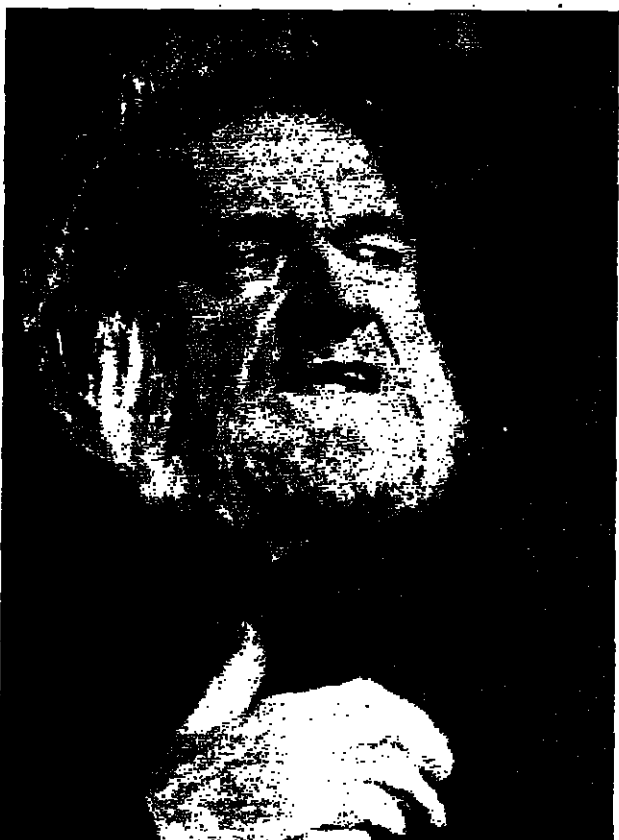
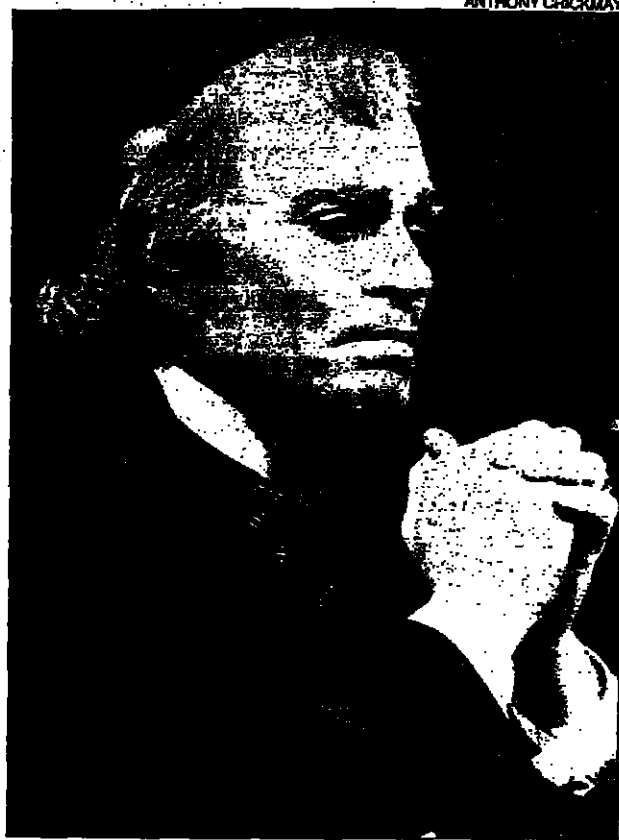
The roll call of great actors continues into the 20th century: Donald Wolf's Shylock was "full of venom and hatred" and, according to the writer John Gross, Michael Redgrave and Emlyn Williams presented conventionally villainous readings of the part in the 1950s.

Then, in 1960, Peter O'Toole's interpretation at Stratford marked a turning point. Perhaps it was not so much that the horror of the Holocaust had taken this long to be acknowledged, but rather that the theatre had become a forum for political ideas. His Shylock, directed by Michael Langham, was a heroic, dignified figure, in contrast to what one reviewer described as "a gushing, nervous, trivial band of Christians".

The RSC's 1997 Shylock, Philip Voss, had a walk-on part in that production and still says it is the best he's seen to date. He, meanwhile, having begun with trepidation, has found the part rewarding. "He's a rich, deep character, an outsider, which is very appealing. He's an incredibly witty man. I don't think Shakespeare is anti-Semitic. Shylock becomes unhinged because his daughter betrays him. That short scene with Jessica shows how much he loves her, has dominated her but loved her too."

The most famous speech in the play — "Hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions?" and so on — is often cited as proof of Shakespeare's humanity. Voss delivers it standing upright, "not kicked and bleeding; he's presenting an argument".

In the intervening years, Laurence Olivier's Shylock in Jonathan Miller's Victorian-dress 1970 production for the National Theatre was memorable for his emphatic Jewishness and the downplaying of other strands in the plot. The text was slightly cut to omit unsympathetic lines. In the early 1990s, the director David Thacker also made judicious cuts and also made Shylock (played by David Calder) a businessman among other businessmen. But this time the setting was the contemporary Stock Exchange and due weight was given to the casket scenes. Shylock was a reasonable man



A slew of Shylocks (clockwise from top left): Laurence Olivier (1970), Anthony Sher (1987), David Calder (1994), Philip Voss (1997)

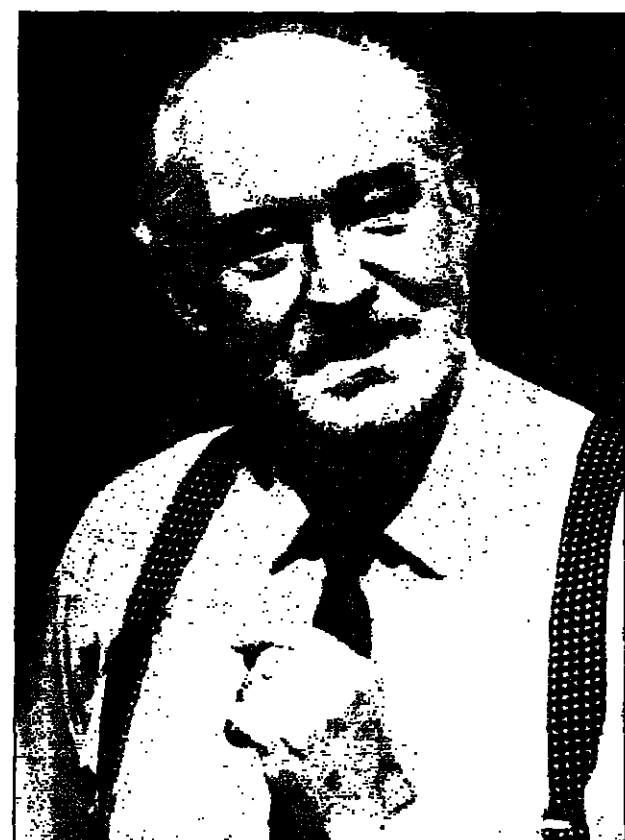
driven mad by the deflection of his daughter with a Christian, and so completely won the audience's sympathy that there was an audible expression of horror when he was ordered to renounce his faith and become a Christian.

Ten years ago Anthony Sher grappled with the role in Bill Alexander's 1987 RSC production. A South African Jew, Sher was all too aware of racial prejudice and sought to stir it up in the audience to shake their complacency, giving them an unsympathetic, angry, exaggerated Jew. A

yellow star of David was sprayed on to the wall at the back of the stage.

Gregory Doran, who directs Voss in this season's *Merchant*, played Solanio in 1987. That production, he believes, "loaded the play in the post-Holocaust sense. It over-balanced it. The casket scenes went for nothing, but they are crucial because it is all about human values — Portia is a commodity too."

The play has been hijacked by history. We are putting it back into the world of Renaissance trade. We've started



with the title: Shylock was a merchant of Venice. I wanted to take the swastikas and stars of David out of the play."

The differences between Shylock and Antonio, he believes, have more to do with commerce than race — a Jew, unlike Christians, was allowed by his religion to charge interest. "Shylock doesn't expect to ask for the pound of flesh," he says, but, driven mad by Jessica's elopement with a Christian, he seeks revenge and then, having gone too far, discovers that he is an alien after all.

Four hundred years on, Shylock can still be approached as if for the first time. Whether private person or representative Jew, caricature villain or grieving father, as much as any character in the canon he demonstrates Shakespeare's extraordinary malleability, the chameleon property which allows succeeding generations to find themselves reflected in the plays.

● *The Merchant of Venice* opens at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford (01789 295623), tomorrow

## Christmas turkey without pumpkin

Too many years have passed since it was the turn of *Peter Pan* to be the annual lesbian panty at this venue. Graced with two Mrs Darlings and a stormtrooper Wendy, the turns of the plot would have given Dame James Barrie a fit of the vapours.

None of the show's successors came anywhere near it for the calmly bizarre route by which Cupid's bent arrows found their mark, and now the Drill Hall has revived its earliest predecessor, Cheryl Moch's 1987 tale of how Cinderella found her prince.

Times have changed, and expectations with them, both for script, performance and production quality. I don't know if Nona Sheppard is trying to reproduce her direction of a decade ago, but while she has allowed her designer (Betina Reeves) to make colourful costumes — "and so nicely pressed," as Cinderella observes, ever the domestic — theatrical excitement is close to the minimum.

Budget restrictions may have forced Sheppard to situate the pumpkin, coach and rats offstage, but one of the tasks Cinderella must per-

### Cinderella — the Real True Story

form to win her princess is to fetch the secret of flight from an eagle's nest and fly from there to the palace. Merely walking off at an upper level and on again down below is a rotten cop out.

The alterations to the straight tale are developed with modest ingenuity, but the characterisation of supporting characters is dreadful. Sally Armstrong's closet Duke expected. The slipper finds its proper foot before the interval and the second half is concerned with persuading king and country that a woman's love for a woman is a good thing.

Rebecca Hall's pretty Cinderella is likeably sweet-natured, shy and undaunted by mythological hazards, and Deni Francis a spunky Princess. But neither of them manages to make their loud cries into attractive sounds. For a dedicated audience the show could do no wrong, but the direction is slack, someone forgot to speak a vital cue, and long stretches of dialogue are without charm.

JEREMY KINGSTON

● A photograph of the wrong ghost accompanied Friday's review of *The Spanish Tragedy*, at the Pit. Don Andrea is being played by Ewart James Walters.

## Richter rarities

LAST week *The Times* launched an exclusive offer: three hitherto unissued recordings of the great Russian pianist Sviatoslav Richter playing at the Festival Hall and Aldeburgh Festival in 1979 and 1986. To order these thrilling CDs, please fill in the coupon below. The three discs comprise: TN101, Schubert Sonatas D575, D625, D664; TN102, Schubert Sonata in A Minor D784 and *Huttenbrenner Variations*, Schumann *Fantasies*; TN103, Mozart Sonata in G, Tchaikovsky *The Seasons*, Rachmaninov *Etudes Tableaux*, Scriabin *Black Mass Sonata*, Prokofiev Sonata No 4

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## A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

### BACH'S BRANDENBURG CONCERTOS

reviewed by Nicholas Anderson

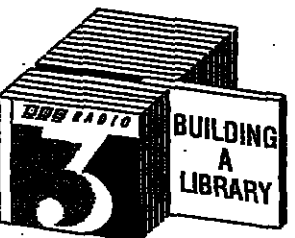
The orchestral cornerstone of Bach's music is the collection of six concertos which he dedicated to the Margrave of Brandenburg in 1721. It is one of the most brilliantly diverse musical anthologies ever assembled, for no two concertos are scored for the same combination of instruments and the consequent range of colour was, at the time, almost without precedent. In addition to the standard string ensemble Bach further called upon recorders, a transverse flute, oboes, horns, viola da gamba and a solo harpsichord. This rich variety, together with issues of practice and style, has invited a wide consensus of interpretation from which several distinct categories emerge from upwards of 40 available recordings.

Until the late 1950s recorder

players and viola da gambists were less plentiful than nowadays. Consequently, in almost all recordings of the Brandenburgs up until then, these parts were taken by modern flutes and cellos, respectively.

From the mid-1960s, however, a growing interest in recreating the sounds and colours of Bach's day led to the reinstatement of at least some of the instruments specified. By the early 1970s this interest had flowered into a full-scale revival of period instruments. One further category of relevance to the prospective collector concerns earlier versions of concertos that only eventually were to become Brandenburgs. Three recordings explore these earlier thoughts, of which that masterminded by the late Thurston Dart and

● To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk  
● Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*



performed by Neville Marriner with the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields is the most challenging (Philips 426 088-2/089-2).

In the remaining categories of "modern" and "period" instruments the choice is wide. Jonathan Rees and the Scottish Ensemble provide a lively, athletic and instrumentally scrupulous version on modern instruments (Virgin Classics CUD 5 61114-2), while the *Camerata* of the 18th century, directed by the flautist Konrad Hünteler (Dabringhaus and Grimm MDG 311 0746-2; £14.99) steals the lead, by a very short margin, from the English Concert and the Hanover Band.

## Smash hits and sentiment

With the temporary construction of a 6,000-capacity indoor arena next to the long-retired power station, a new battle cry enters the touring phrasebook: "How you doin', Battersea?"

This venue was apparently constructed flatpack-style in 14 days for the Midland '97 series of shows, and will comfortably house, heat, feed and water many a vast fanbase between now and Christmas. Approaching the site, one half expected to see one of Pink Floyd's blow-up porkers floating past, and plans for a launch firework display last week were scrapped by a local pressure group: Battersea Dogs' Home.

At Sunday night's multi-artist Concert of Hope, held in aid of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, we witnessed the combination of military organisation and emotional obligation with which the industry has responded to her death. It could have become a sobfest, but after the opening video images of the Princess and the Elton

### POP Concert of Hope Battersea, SW11

John hymn, the artists wisely dedicated themselves to the restorative powers of pure entertainment.

There was a convincing act of show-stealing by the opening turn, Robbie Williams has come a long way from the binging embarrassment of his immediate post-Take That period and, with a UK tour and several hits to his name, was an engaging and funny performer. On *Lazy Days* and *Old Before I Die*, he was pop's Paul Gascoigne, like Gazza now seeming to direct his natural ebullience to creative ends. But the Norman Wisdom element of his act remained on a hilarious remake of his old band's *Back for Good*, featuring thrash-metal choruses.

London soul fivesome Damage could only follow that with a well-thumbed, if still polished, collection of R&B ci-

chés. All Saints, in their first live engagement, showed some sparrow-voiced nervousness but also signs of a powerful quartet in the making, while boy popsters 911 were energetic, if vocally pedestrian.

Gary Barlow, who helped to put the event together, may have been sharing a bill with Williams for the first time since Take That split, but learned instead with Rosie Gaines and Boyzone's Roman Keating on *Hang on in There, Baby* and *Harvest for the World* respectively. He it was who elicited most of the loudest screams of the night.

Peter Andre arrived, biceps and all, to a strangely muted response, as his act moves ever further from plinkety-plunk pop into homeboy R&B. But Boyzone's young devotees were in full voice for their pick-and-mix of huge hits, ending with no less incisive a call to arms than Blue Mink's *Melting Pot*, before the cast reconvened for an inevitable, but undeniably sincere, *Let it Be*.

PAUL SEXTON

Three caskets: gold, silver and lead...



...which holds the portrait of Portia?  
The man who chooses correctly wins the rich heiress

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# LAW

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## Teaching judges to do more than judge

Under Government plans to reform civil justice and human rights, members of the judiciary will be taught that delivering verdicts is only part of their job. Frances Gibb reports

Judges are gearing up for a return to school. They are preparing for what will be the biggest judicial training exercise since the 1989 Children Act prompted countrywide "lessons" for judges. This time, it is the Government's reforms to the civil justice system and also its Human Rights Bill which pose the biggest training challenge yet to the judiciary.

Lord Justice Henry, the Court of Appeal judge in charge of the training of judges as chairman of the Judicial Studies Board, acknowledges that a "considerable training effort" is needed. The civil justice reforms, proposed by Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, will mean a complete change in attitude. "It is to do with a whole culture change," he says. "Instead of sitting as umpires, judges will be more proactive and managerial."

For the first time, judges will be trial managers, knocking heads together, pushing the pace of litigation and controlling costs. The idea is to make civil litigation cheaper and quicker, and therefore open to more people. The change is needed, Lord Justice Henry says. "Forty years ago, when I started, the attitude was: as long as you, the judge, got the answer right, you'd done your bit. Forget that the answer had taken years and the parties were bankrupt."

The "Woolf" training involves three stages: the first, an introductory one-and-a-half days for all 800 full-time judges from district judge up to Court of Appeal, is complete. Although no one knew if the new Government would continue to implement Woolf, the training momentum had to be maintained. Stage two will be a series of seminars (two to three days) on the details of the new rules which will govern all civil proceedings "and hands-on practice in running a case". Stage three may cover new technology and the organising of judges into local teams, because Lord Woolf envisages local civil justice centres with one senior judge in charge.

"The message is that you can't leave

the speed and cost of litigation to the parties," Lord Justice Henry says. "The court has to control it and to ensure it is proportionate to the importance of the issue at stake."

Sceptics say that some judges may not be up to their new role. Lord Justice Henry disagrees. "There are not many quiet-lifers. They are a serious lot. I am heartened," he says, singling out for praise the district judges who will bear the brunt of the changes.

On top of Woolf, there is the upheaval that the Human Rights Bill will cause. The Bill, which incorporates the European Convention on Human Rights, will affect every court and tribunal. "It's a formidable task, something that can pop up anywhere, and it's a different way of looking at things — an exciting prospect," Lord Justice Henry says.

**'The reforms will mean a complete change in attitude'**

Judges will be taught about the kind of human rights points that lawyers will raise and, Lord Justice Henry continues, "we will teach judges and magistrates not to be too bowled over by all of this because we have tried to apply these principles for hundreds of years, so we will start from a common-sense view."

It is all a far cry from when the Judicial Studies Board first started work in 1979 and "training" was snuffed at. Judges now accept the need for it, and the board's remit and standing have both expanded greatly since its early days. In all but name it is almost a judicial college, responsible for its own budget (£3.3 million last year) and for deciding what training is needed for both new and sitting judges. It consists mostly of judges but has a full-time post of director of studies, and last year moved to new offices at Millbank Tower with its own conference centre and training rooms.

There has been some hostility, particularly to the ethnic-awareness training for all full-time judges. That has now gone. Specialist training seminars are being run on child abuse — 139 judges have taken part in two seminars so far — and the "human awareness" sessions, now called "equal treatment" seminars, are being incorporated into training for new judges and refresher courses.

"Judges did not go for human awareness; they felt they were aware enough," Lord Justice Henry says. These courses will cover how to deal with anyone appearing in court who may be "seen to be disadvantaged", including child witnesses, litigants in person, the disabled and rape victims. Judges still come under fire over seemingly crass remarks to rape victims, and many believe training in this field has far to go. Lord Justice Henry rejects that view. Judges, he says, take rape seriously — the average



Lord Justice Henry: "Judges will be more proactive and managerial"

length of sentence has doubled in the past ten years — and often a remark is wrongly reported or taken out of context. Better judge-president liaison would help, he says, "but only experienced judges sit on these cases. If they were not good, they would be taken off them."

And if they slip up, the public's eye is on them, he says. The training is all part of ensuring they do a good job — and are seen to do so. "What we are trying to do, and I believe succeed in doing, is being more professional. I think we are all more professional than we used to be."

Ben Cooper on a Caribbean prison nightmare

## Noose tightens on Jamaica's death row

On the eve of International Human Rights Year, which marks the 50th anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Jamaican Government has announced the resumption of hanging after a hiatus of ten years.

With a culture of violence and corruption on the island and a murder rate (to which the police add approximately 150 fatal shootings a year) out of control, capital punishment is being exploited by the Government in a cynical "tough on crime" election ploy.

To quicken the pace of executions, the right of appeal to the UN Human Rights Committee for death row prisoners has just been removed, and impractical time limits on appeals to the Inter-American Commission imposed which are incompatible with Jamaica's international obligations.

The situation is so urgent that a party of London's top human rights lawyers led by Edward Fitzgerald, QC, recently flew to Washington, DC to block these moves and save Jamaicans from going to the gallows before their rights have been heard.

With elections suddenly called for December 18, hangings are widely expected early in the new year.

Plans are also afoot to abolish the criminal jurisdiction of the Privy Council in London, substituting it with a local Caribbean final court of appeal. This would probably further increase hanging by removing an international perspective on the death penalty.

Saul Lehrfreund of Simons Muirhead and Burton, who specialises in defending condemned men from the Caribbean, says: "For purists, the Privy Council has no place in West Indies society. But despite the anachronism, its value lies in the quality of its justice. Distance strengthens independence and objectivity, and reduces the danger of corruption."



49 men face the gallows

The 49 men on death row are losing hope. Some have gone mad. They are the victims of an inadequate criminal justice system. Legal aid is so minimal that defendants are convicted without a proper defence or a fair trial. Many claim they were forced to sign statements confessing to murder to stop severe beatings by the police.

Rehabilitation is a foreign concept to the prison regime. When I questioned the Commissioner of Prisons about a recent disturbance, he admitted to having ordered the burning of death row prisoners' possessions, and to being present when the inmates were arbitrarily beaten.

Conditions in the prisons are degrading. Disease is rife, and even the warders complain of appalling sanitation. The cells are dark and tiny, the food inedible, exercise minimal, and some men are raped by cellmates or kept apart for their warders' sexual pleasure in return for favours.

Infection with HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases is rampant, according to the prison doctor. The danger to the wider community is disturbing. When the Commissioner of Prisons announced on the radio plans to distribute condoms to the warders, as well as to inmates, the warders, who felt publicly

humiliated in a homophobic society, instantly protested. Armed mobs of prisoners were allowed to rampage around the high-security compounds, seeking homosexuals to murder.

An inquiry into the riots — during which 20 people died — has heard evidence that some warders incited rioting before walking out on strike, while others stood by as men were stabbed, kicked and burnt to death inside and outside their cells.

On other occasions, inmates have been killed by warders. On one visit interviewing death row inmates with a colleague from the Jamaica Council for Human Rights (JCHR), a man innocently waiting at the admin office was kicked and punched by a deputy superintendent.

An extensive *pro bono* team of London solicitors and barristers represent death row prisoners by bringing their cases before the Privy Council and international human rights courts. The JCHR works with the British lawyers by meeting the prisoners to report their ill-treatment and to investigate unfair trial issues. The lawyers trying to save their clients' lives rarely meet them.

One of the condemned men I got to know while preparing their appeals has described the plight of death row inmates in poems and letters to newspapers. Leroy Lamey gives hope to desperate prisoners by teaching them to read, reading them their rights and protecting them.

During a week in the condemned cell next to the gallows, where he was being measured and weighed for the drop, one of his cellmates went mad and threw his faeces around the cell. Lamey counselled this man by encouraging hope for survival. What hope now?

● The JCHR is now closed through lack of funds. Donations to reopen it can be made by contacting Ben Cooper at 56 Abdale Road, London W12 7EU (0181-743 4594).

## Goodbye to the bench

JUDGES nearly always "retire", so the announcement that Lord Justice Staughton was to "resign" caused a flurry of speculation. But it is quite innocent: the judge — who went on to the High Court bench in 1981 — says he has not fallen out with the Lord Chancellor or the Lord Chief Justice.

"I feel I have done enough judging and would like to look for some other occupation," he explains. "But I am not planning to cease work, so I didn't think that the word 'retire' was right." Lord Justice Staughton is 64 — young by judge standards, although not in other walks of life.

"All too many of my colleagues stay on until a great age," he remarks. "But it is very demanding being in the Court of Appeal." He is likely to continue to sit as a deputy from time to time, as well as exploring other avenues such as arbitration.

**Name that firm**  
SCRIVENOR recently reported that the days of Sue, Grabbit & Runne may be over now that the Law Society is to abolish most restrictions governing law firms' names. Richard Orgill, from Ad Hoc Marketing and Communications, has already seen the opportunities. He suggests the following names as likely to prove popular: "Briefs R' Us, The Writ Shop, Litigation Unlimited, Legal Eagles or EC4 Law (or indeed EC3 Law, EC2, WC1 Law) and Rumpole's."

Peter Brice, from Brimstage, Wirral, says there was an old-established law firm in Sligo with whom he had

dealings called Argue & Phibbs, while Stuart Duncan, of the London law firm Bircham & Co., remarks: "When my then firm, Stoneham Langton & Passmore, merged with Bircham, I suggested to my partners the name Bircham Stoneham. One of my partners said: 'Why not go all the way and call it Bircham, Stoneham & Hangen?'"

Neil Allan, of Dumfries, writes: "I am nearly certain there was truth in the story that a firm of solicitors existed in Stirling in the Seventies called Welsh & Robb."

**Lender beware**  
A COURT of Appeal hearing that starts today will prove a

landmark case for the property industry, with wide implications for property lenders, valuers and other professionals. Dobb Lupton Alsop says that Platform Home Loans v. Oyston Shipways and Bernard Thorpe will be keenly scrutinised: "If the lender's appeal is upheld, then valuers and surveyors would not be able to claim that a lender's poor lending procedures contributed to the losses incurred. Lenders would only be penalised to the extent that their actions had contributed to the faulty valuation itself."

"However, if the valuers' appeal is upheld, then lenders will be on notice that if they choose to sue valuers, their own lending conduct and pol-

cies will continue to be closely scrutinised in the law courts."

## Risky business

ACCORDING to Focus magazine, the average Briton risks breaking the law up to 20 times a day. In this month's issue, it says people risk large fines and imprisonment while gardening, going to work, having a teabreak or relaxing at the end of the day.

Lighting or stubbing out cigarettes can fall foul of driving without due care and attention; taking a cup of coffee at work could be illegal if not declared as a "benefit in kind" and declared on a tax self-assessment form; and running over a dog — but not a cat — on the way home is an offence.

Paul Colbert, the Editor, says: "The nation's law makers need to keep up. It's still illegal to shout 'taxi', to beat your wife after 9pm because of the noise, or to make love on the steps of a church after sundown. Is it allowed in broad daylight?"

## Taking the credit

A hankering for the film industry: Ola Cole, a lawyer who trained with Norton Rose, is helping to make what she says is an "exciting, sexy crime noir, called *The Mexican Stand-Off*", with Johnson Family Films.

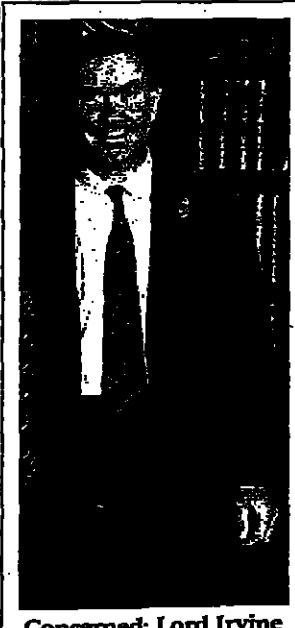
A number of lawyers have already provided financial help, and Andrew Curtis, of Russell's, the music law firm, is advising. More investors are needed, however, and those who give money will be receive a screen credit in return. Charned 4 has also commissioned a documentary on the making of the film. Details from JFF, telephone 0958 521522.

SCRIVENOR

## Rethink on fraud juries

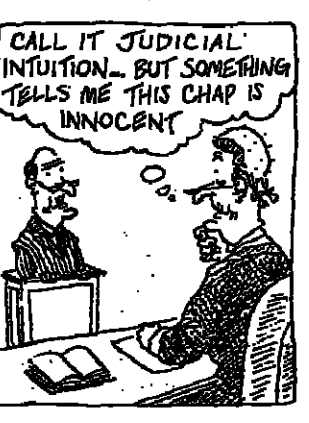
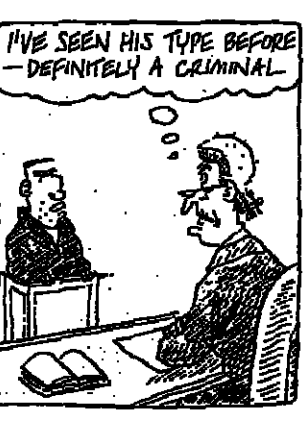
THE GOVERNMENT is looking at trial by jury and whether it should be used for serious fraud cases. The Lord Chancellor and the Solicitor General have both said that there is a case to look at the issue again. Lord Irvine of Lairg told *The Times* last month: "Everybody has a concern that really heavy fraud trials may be too difficult for ordinary juries."

A seminar tomorrow by the British Academy of Forensic Sciences will look at the effectiveness of juries for fraud cases. Details from Anthony Heaton-Armstrong, 0171 400 1800.

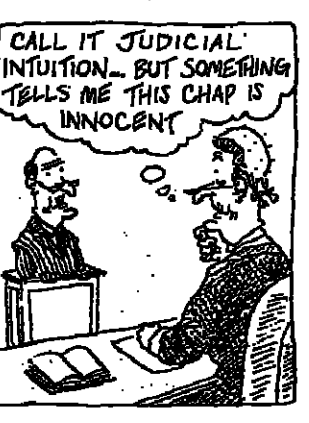


Concerned: Lord Irvine

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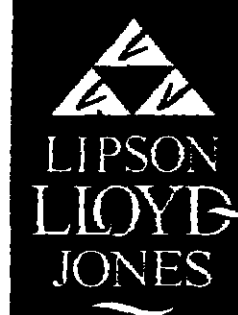
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# Forget beef. It's tax that bothers us

Fears of approaching changes to their subsidies and levies are leading more farmers to sell up. Edward Fennell reports

There is rising panic in the British agricultural industry. All over the country farmers are rushing to their lawyers. Many are deciding that the time has come to sell up. The day of reckoning is almost upon them. So is BSE exacting its final toll? Forget it. The three-lettered acronym which strikes terror into the farmer's heart is CGT — Capital Gains Tax.

Simon Kirkup, of Dickinson Dees, one of the leading agricultural lawyers, says: "Farmers were worried before the election. They were worried before the green Budget. And they'll be worried before the Budget in the spring." The cause of their fear is the threat to the favourable conditions they enjoy under Capital Gains Tax. They also anticipate that changes to inheritance tax will have an

adverse effect. "The capital tax legislation is due to change in the next Budget," warns Mr Kirkup. "There is a last chance to restructure a large family business."

Falling farm incomes and BSE have played a part in persuading people to think about leaving the land. There have also been incentives for smaller farmers to get out. Robert Unwin of Batons, in Dorset, says he has been busy with sales since the beginning of the year. And Mike Thomson, of Northamptonshire, says: "They are getting rid of their milk quotas and taking advantage of CGT retirement relief while they have a chance."

Yet despite the volume of sales, the price of land has been holding up. Robert Unwin says: "People have been queuing up for land. I find that the purchasers are mostly people whose core business is not farming but who are interested in the amenity value of the land. They are taking profits earned elsewhere and putting them into land to gain tax relief. They will probably continue to farm profitably, but that is not their main motive."

Elsewhere, the demand for farmland comes from property developers. The Oxfordshire agricultural specialists, Hemmans, say that pressure for extra housing in the shire counties has led to large-scale sales of greenfield sites on the edges of "railway villages". Roger Henman, based in the firm's Woodstock office, says: "Developers are taking up options on farmland, and good prices are being achieved. If a village has good access to Oxford and London, then the money is available."

This frenzy of buying and selling is expected to continue until next April when, according to Roger Henman, the market may go flat — but only for a short time. The next big issue will then be Agenda 2000, The EU's follow-up to the Common Agricultural Policy.

Dickinson Dees has an agricultural specialist permanently based in Brussels to tap into EC thinking. The contrast between the structure of UK farming and that on the Continent has always been problematic, and that may increase in Europe are expected to have a cap. Beyond a certain size, there will be no more money available. Small farmers in Normandy will not mind. Large farmers in Northumbria will.

Simon Kirkup says: "It will be up to lawyers to devise clever ways



The price of land is holding despite the numbers of farmers leaving

of dealing with this. "Crude efforts to break up large holdings so they are turned into lots of smaller units, each of which qualifies for a subsidy, will not get past the officials in Brussels. Instead, Mr

Kirkup and his colleagues are now working on more subtle devices to ensure that his clients do not lose out too badly. Beef may hit the headlines, but tax and subsidy is the bottom line.

Countries vary considerably in their approach to divorce payments, reports Frances Gibb

## Where to get most from your divorce

Last Thursday's award of £12 million to the devoted wife of a corporate executive for her support through 32 years of marriage may encourage hundreds of divorcing wives whose loyalty can be measured in support in the home. The Superior Court in Stamford, Connecticut, decided that Lorna Wendt, the woman behind Gary Wendt, deserved the £12 million plus £150,000 a year, even though she did not earn a penny of their £60 million fortune. As is common in America, the judge ruled that the couple should divide equally "all of the current available cash, stocks, bonds and mutual fund assets of the parties".

Earlier last week, in a court in South Africa, a £2 million deal was agreed between Earl Spencer and his wife Victoria. The Earl had originally hoped to get away with £300,000. By comparison with the American example, that deal seemed small fry. But as the countess's solicitor Maryly La Follette, of Charles Russell & Co, pointed out, it was the biggest settlement ever made for a wife by the South African courts.

Yet Ms La Follette admits that the Countess could have done better by more than £1 million if the divorce had been heard in the British courts. So, where to divorce? The

question is now crucial in any "big-money" action. London is the place for a woman to go if the alternative, such as South Africa, looks only at the wealth accumulated during a marriage and not at any inherited wealth the man has — in Earl Spencer's case, some £100 million. The English courts also have discretion in how to split a couple's finances, deciding what is "fair and reasonable" in the circumstances. Judges in England would be unlikely to award a sum similar to Lady Conran's recent £10.5 million settlement, given the relative brevity of the Spencer marriage. But, lawyers say, Earl Spencer would have been well aware that the award would have far exceeded the £300,000 that he originally offered.

In big-money divorces, therefore, the forum for the hearing is critical in determining how the couple's finances

are split, and "forum shopping" — or "forum fighting" — is the first step in any celebrity divorce action.

Jeremy Levison, head of family law at Collyer Bristow, says:

"London can be the best place, but it may not be. One man's credit is another's debit. In the divorce of Mick and Bianca Jagger, Bianca wanted the divorce in California and he wanted it in London." The reason, he explains, is that many American states work on a "community of property" principle, splitting assets on a 50:50 basis, "whereas in England we have equitable distribution". The richer the couple, the worse off the wife would be in London, compared with divorcing in many US states.

"The wife in an ordinary couple may end up with more than half the assets if these are not great," Mr Levison says. "But at the high end, the courts have shown in recent cases that however many millions the husband has, they regard an award of £9-£10 million as the ceiling."

Jane Simpson, a divorce partner with Manches & Co, says the Dart divorce in 1996, the classic recent case of "forum shopping", showed that judges in London will impose strict limits in multi-million-pound settlements. Robert Dart, an American, was supposedly worth a quarter of the \$4.4 billion family plastic-cup empire. But in a landmark ruling, the Court of Appeal decided in May 1996 that £9 million was

the limit for what Katrina Dart needed. "She wanted to divorce in Michigan, where she would have got half his fortune. London is usually a good forum for wives but not necessarily for the very wealthy," Ms Simpson says.

Peter George, the leading divorce lawyer at Charles Russell, says there is a complex checklist that lawyers go through before deciding which forum might be best, provided they have enough time to consider the matter. "At the end you get together a team, research it and take an objective view."

The checklist of considerations includes: which countries have jurisdiction to hear the divorce; the likely sum the client will obtain there; likely legal costs; how much publicity will probably ensue (some divorces are heard in chambers); where the orders will be enforced and whether any other country where a partner

has assets will comply with them; and tax implications.

The existence of a prenuptial contract, which might say that a couple would split everything 50:50 or that each would take their own property back, is another crucial factor.

"Many European courts are bound by these contracts," Mr George says, "but in this country, courts don't have to be bound by them, although they might take account of them."

Finally there is the question — one relevant to the Spencers — of the courts' attitude to inherited wealth. In Scotland, and in other countries, this is not taken into account when assessing a person's assets.

As for where a couple can claim to want their divorce heard, that comes down to the laws of a particular jurisdiction.

Chris Barton, a family law professor at Staffordshire University, says: "Courts will ask which country has the closest connection with the case in terms of where the husband or wife is domiciled, or had lived before they split; and where the children are based."

Courts will also look at where the bulk of the property is, he says. On that basis, Countess Spencer could have put up a strong case for going to England.

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The firm is looking to appoint an additional partner to undertake private client, tax and trusts work (particularly relating to off-shore tax planning). The successful candidate will either be an existing partner at a leading practice, or alternatively a dynamic and proactive senior assistant (not necessarily with a following) at a leading firm who feels stifled by the constraints of their present environment and seeks an early opportunity to attain partnership. The successful candidate will have an important role in the firm's development.

### 2. 2-5 pge Assistant

In addition, the firm is also seeking to recruit a 2-5 years' pge commercial tax specialist to assist the firms' thriving commercial department and also to become involved in tax investigation work.

The firm offers a congenial, supportive environment with the highest quality client base and opportunities for the right candidates to make a real mark in the private client and tax world.



For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Nick Peacock or William Cock (both qualified lawyers) on 0171 405 6062 (0171 228 0476 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394.

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### TAX

You will need good quality 2-4 years' pge to take on this senior role in the tax department of a top medium-sized City firm as you will be working with little or no supervision. There will be a wide range of corporate tax matters in the finance department for some bluechip clients. Ref: T14028

To £48,000

### PROPERTY LITIGATION

There are seriously good career opportunities at this top 20 City firm for a property litigator with 1-2 years' pge who would also like to gain experience in some non-contentious, mainly retail, property matters. Non-contentious experience not necessary, but ambition and drive is. Ref: T18369

To £38,000

### IP/IT

Those yourself at this quality City firm and a prosperous future is guaranteed. It needs a non-contentious IP lawyer with 2-4 years' pge to draft, negotiate and advise on agreements, and a non-contentious IP lawyer with 2-4 years' pge for copyright, design rights, media, E-commerce work. Ref: T16988

To £44,000

### CORPORATE

Whether you have 1 or as many as 7 years' pge as a lawyer specialising in corporate finance and buy-out work, your career will enjoy a big boost by joining this highly-rated corporate firm. There is every chance here of working on headline-making deals and making partnership as a result. Ref: T17244

To £70,000

### IP

The Cambridge office of this firm offers IP lawyers with 3-5 years' pge the perfect career compromise - the highest quality work in one of the country's most technologically-minded regions, and a quality of life worth moving there for. Some biotechnology experience would help. Ref: T37861

To £58,000

### INT. ESTATE PLANNING

Work at the top end of the tax/estate planning field at the London office of this leading firm. As an assistant with 5+ years' pge (or partner with 7+ years'), immediate partnership is a possibility, while an understanding of the issues involved in international matters is crucial. Ref: T11979

To £Partnership

### PROPERTY

As if the top training and career development on offer at this top 10 City firm was not enough for most commercial property lawyers with 0-4 years' pge, then the superb salary package should convince you there are few, if any, better moves for young lawyers looking to make their way in the City. Ref: T6594

To £58,000

### CONSTRUCTION

This London office of this firm is the perfect place to establish yourself as a construction lawyer as it is currently working on some of the very largest projects around. You will have 0-2 years' pge, although construction experience is not needed at the newly qualified level. Ref: T19331

To £34,000

### EMPLOYMENT

The chance to work at one of the leading employment practices in the country does not come along too often, so young lawyers who want to make a name for themselves in this field should not delay. If you have 1-4 years' pge, you will find this City firm a great place to work. Ref: T25769

To £48,000

### SHIPPING LITIGATION

If you get down on the dry land that is this leading niche practice, then your ship will really have come in. You will have 0-3 years' shipping experience in your kitbag and be keen on a workload that will include bits of tending and international trade. Ref: T43833

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Enjoy working on cutting edge emerging markets work at one of the leading foreign firms in the region. You will have 6 months' pge in company/commercial work and will gain the kind of experience in the Ukraine that will make you a very attractive recruit when you return to the City. Ref: T44221

To £20,000

### CORPORATE

You are a fluent French speaking corporate lawyer with 3-7 years' pge and this firm offers the chance to concentrate on a wide range of very high-quality work for a string of impressive French clients, working in a small team. Ref: T21653

To £70,000

### INVESTMENT FUNDS

Ride one of the biggest waves in the City at the moment by becoming an investment funds lawyer. You will have 6-18 months' pge and will work on a broad range of asset management, off-shore investment funds matters etc. The top 10 City firm also provides the best in career development. Ref: T45842

To £34,000

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Be the first English-qualified lawyer in the City to join the US office of a high-profile US firm and enjoy the benefits, immediate and lucrative partnership is only the start. If you are a senior associate/junior partner from a top 5 firm with a projects, corporate finance or capital markets background, Ref: T45801



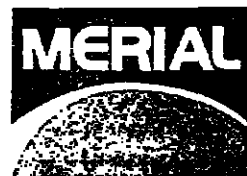
For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Sarah Dawid, Nick Shilton or Kate Sandilands (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0181-789 7704 or 0181-567 3952 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.

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The company now seeks a senior lawyer to join the legal department at

Worldwide headquarters in Knightsbridge. Reporting to the General Counsel, you will give advice on a range of legal issues from the negotiation, drafting and review of commercial contracts to regulatory and multi-jurisdictional issues and company secretarial duties. The role requires the successful candidate to work closely with senior management and board level personnel and with commercial people in business units across the globe.

This is an outstanding opportunity for a senior candidate (6+ PQE) who is seeking a position with real responsibility and autonomy. With a strong academic and private practice background, you should have international legal experience and will be confident advising on a range of commercial contractual matters as well as competition and regulatory issues. Experience of the pharmaceutical or animal health

industry would be an advantage, as would fluency in French. In addition to excellent technical legal skills, applicants must clearly demonstrate their flexibility and adaptability as well as the ability to prioritise and to respond to the demands of a business that will rapidly change in a short period of time.

Interested applicants should contact Lindsey Newman at In-House Legal on 0171 405 0151 or write to her at High Holborn House, 52-54 High Holborn, London WC1V 6RL. Fax: 0171 831 6498.

E-mail: [lindseynewman@hwgroup.com](mailto:lindseynewman@hwgroup.com)  
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All 3rd party applications will be forwarded to In-House Legal.

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## Head of Legal Services and Recoveries

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The successful candidate will advise on an exciting caseload which will include investor claims handling and assessment, advice on the relevant legislation and rules, policy matters, regulatory issues, public law, pensions and rules of the regulatory bodies.

The ideal candidate will possess an exceptional academic background, strong communication skills and experience of some or all of the following: management; conduct of high profile litigation; insolvency; regulatory matters.

A highly competitive package is offered, commensurate with the level of this exceptional position. To discuss this vacancy in confidence, please contact Lucy Boyd, Senior Consultant.



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### Postponing Interviews

In this time of ill-health, many candidates are going to interviews when suffering from a cold. Should they postpone the interview or turn up and do their best?

Most candidates, unless they're actually laid up in bed, tend to turn up. They fear the job may be filled before a re-arranged interview takes place. They hope they can explain that they're not at their best, and be appreciated for their determination. The more optimistic among them hope that the stress of the interview will get their adrenalin flowing enough to raise their performance.

Our advice is that it's usually best to postpone. Displays of fortitude and determination don't win the credit they deserve. On the contrary, interviewers are likely to be concerned about all about catching your cold, and will cease you for putting them at risk. They'll bring the interview to an end as quickly as possible and remember you chiefly as the sniffling candidate with no concern for other people. This image of you will override your other qualities, even if the adrenalin flows and you put in a good performance.

Non-contagious ill health is different. Attend an interview with your leg in plaster after a skiing accident and you'll get full credit. We once placed a candidate who was always referred to warmly by the client as 'the woman with the broken leg'.

Michael Chambers

CHAMBERS' DIRECTORY  
Our legal directory is available from Buros, (01447-710 971)

### INDUSTRY Sonya Rayner, Fiona Boxall, Morwenna Lewis, Aileen Shepherd

#### Senior Legal Adviser: Kent

Subsidiary of international engineering company seeks senior corporate lawyer to establish legal function. Minimum 5 years' post qualification experience and sound commercial attitude essential.

#### M&A: South East

International hi-tech company requires a commercial lawyer with 4-6 years' pge with M&A experience to work closely with its senior lawyer.

#### Global Corporate: London

Senior corporate lawyer with ability to see the global picture needed by international company with Japanese connections. A good understanding of EC and general company/commercial law is important.

### PRIVATE PRACTICE LONDON: David Woolfson, Simon Anderson

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**Partnership Positions**  
We have been assisting partners seeking a career move for over 20 years now and are regularly placing several partners each month.

**Commercial Property: US Firm in City**  
Leading US firm seeks 2-3 year qual solicitor for broad caseload. Associates have a choice: bill 1600 hours for top City salary or bill more and earn New York rates.

#### General Litigation: SW1

Highly regarded 15 partner Westminster firm seeks 0-2 year qualified assistant to handle varied commercial and civil litigation for both private and public sector clients.

**Sport/Commercial: West End**  
Thriving practice whose clients include premier league football club seeks 1-5 year qualified solicitor for broad range of company/commercial work.

#### Employment Partner: City

Unique opportunity for an experienced employment lawyer with part following to join profitable 5 partner firm handling quality contentious employment work.

**IP/IT: Hants/Surrey**  
Media/telecoms company is looking for solicitor 1-3 years' post qualification experience to join friendly team and handle intellectual property matters, particularly relating to its Internet activities.

#### Commercial Property: London

Solicitor with 1-2 years' commercial property experience, ideally gained in City firm, to join high-calibre legal department of well-known property company.

#### Commercial Lawyer: London

Solicitor with minimum 5 years' pge, including in-house experience, to join legal department of successful specialist international manufacturing company. Experience of litigation management useful.

**Reinsurance: City**  
Large national firm with well regarded insurance practice seeks ambitious 1-6 year qualified assistant to work on high profile international reinsurance matters.

#### Banking: City

Assistants at this leading practice do not have to ask for a broad range of work: the department is structured to ensure this happens. 0-2 year qualified solicitor sought.

#### Media/Telecoms: City

Top 6 City firm seeks 1-4 year qualified assistant with high calibre media or telecoms experience to join a team handling varied and high profile work.

#### Shipping: South West

Specialist practice seeks a bright, committed solicitor NQ+ to handle shipping/marine/insurance related litigation. Heavy weight background preferred.



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We need another highly motivated individual to join the legal team serving Galileo International's staff and companies around the globe.

A lawyer with at least 5 years' post qualification experience, you will be providing practical advice and solutions relating to a wide variety of commercial issues, many of which are technology related. Previous exposure to a sophisticated IT driven environment

is therefore highly desirable. Although this is not a role for a specialist, it will require an understanding of data protection in a commercial environment and of employment law.

You'll be dealing with people of different nationalities at all levels, so you must demonstrate excellent communication and interpersonal skills and be able to work both independently and as part of a team.

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The successful candidate will have the following background:

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- Strong technical skills gained with a Top 10 City law firm.

- Blue-chip industry or banking experience.

You would be joining an organisation with a strong culture and an enviable market position and brand awareness worldwide. As you would expect of such an organisation, you must be able to demonstrate from the outset that you can bring a range of both commercial and legal skills to this role and must be able to liaise, negotiate and influence at all levels, internally and externally.

If you are successful you can expect an exceptional career with a remuneration package to match.

For further information please contact Lindsey Newman at In-House Legal, First Floor, High Holborn House, 52-54 High Holborn, London WC1V 6RL. Tel: 0171 405 0151. Fax: 0171 831 6498. E-mail: lindseynewman@hwgroup.com Internet: http://www.hwgroup.com

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The Company Secretary retires in early 1998 and a successor is sought who will undertake all the company secretarial functions of a listed company, oversee legal issues using appropriate outside practitioners where appropriate, and handle pensions, share options, insurances and safety.

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Please write, with cv and current salary details, explaining how you meet the requirements to: Robin Fletcher, Ref 1130, ICASA Consultants, Buckingham House, 6/7 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 6BU. Tel: 0171 839 1818.



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For information pack please contact the Personnel Officer, Cumbria Constabulary, Carleton Hall, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 2AU. Telephone (01768) 217091/2

Closing date for receipt of completed applications is 9 January 1998.

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The professor should have an established reputation, and will be expected to continue to pursue original research and to publish, within the field of English Law. Applications from individuals with expertise in any area of English Law will be considered. Other things being equal, there is a preference for an appointment in one of the following fields: Public Law, Property Law.

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# LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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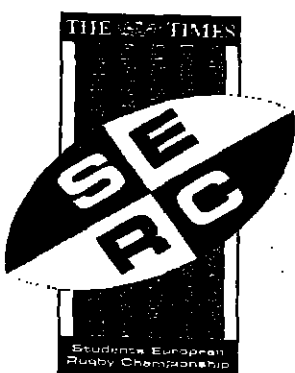
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مكتبة النور



# University game gives lesson in self expression

By MICHAEL AYLWIN



OPINION has always been divided over the efficacy of a university education as preparation for the rigours of life. In rugby terms, the debate has been less fervent. The links between university rugby and first-class rugby have been intimate and unquestioned, but the sweeping away of the amateur order in the game has thrown up a commensurate challenge against this tradition.

The present England squad contains a high representation of products from the university rugby circuit. There is a real possibility, however, that the present crop may prove to be the last, prompting unfamiliar questions in rugby circles over the universities' role in a player's development. As clubs start to flex their new-found financial muscles, the cream of Great Britain's youth are being targeted straight from school and denied the opportunity to play university rugby.

Bristol University and their director of rugby, Bob Reeves, are at the cutting edge of the debate. Two of their recent alumni are Kyran Bracken and Alex King, who was originally selected as the pivot of the England team for the match against Australia last month. In devoting their first two years as students exclusively to the university game, they may prove to be the last of a dying breed. Both are convinced that their years playing university rugby were vital in their development as players. Reeves, who has been in charge of Bristol University's rugby since 1972, was careful

to shield Bracken from the pressure of first-class rugby with Bristol until his third year as a student. Bracken was, by then, more than ready to take on the best and took the club by storm almost immediately.

He remains grateful for Reeves's guidance. "I had three great years at university, made it to Twickenham and got the timing just about right in terms of going down to Bristol," Bracken said.

The allusion to Twickenham refers to the 1993 final of the UAU competition, in which Bristol lost a thrilling match against Loughborough. Reeves is adamant that such vibrant matches in the cradle of university rugby foster a more complete and skilful player.

"You look at the really skilful and intelligent players at international level, like Bracken, King, De Glanville, even the forwards like Diprose and Hill: they are often the ones who have done well in student rugby and it might be because the way they played,

with the ball in their hands, gave them the opportunity to express themselves and develop their skills."

On and off the field, the university system allows its players to flourish in a *laissez faire* environment that is not forthcoming in the stifling goldfish bowl of first-class rugby.

King, a model product of the university stable, speaks warmly of the nourishing diet of university life. "In the league, with two points at stake, you are not able to go out and try things and there aren't that many games now where you can make a mistake and people won't worry about it. Playing with your best mates also, I think, develops you as a character and that will portray itself on the pitch. I would always advise anyone to play university rugby, especially in the first year. You are not missing out at all and, if you're that good, you will make it anyway."

Reeves, as student representative for the Rugby Football Union (RFU), works hard to promote the university cause in the face of its debasement by the clubs, who increasingly lure players straight from school into contracts. He has been instrumental in organising this year's inaugural European Student Cup, sponsored by *The Times*, in which 16 of the strongest universities in Europe will contest the tournament along the lines of the Heineken Cup.

Reeves said: "We have got to show that our fixture list is attractive enough for prospective players coming to university to say: 'Hey, I wouldn't mind playing in that.' Once they are doing that, they will then find that it is good, it's challenging, it's interesting, it's skilful. But in some cases nowadays, players are being led down another road before they even find that. This European competition is just one means of addressing that."

With the final of the competition scheduled as a curtain raiser to the Heineken Cup final next month, a showcase for some of Europe's most promising talent is assured. After a full and rounded education, graduation to the real thing would then surely follow for some.



Sampson watches the Great Woking youth team in their home game against Basildon — next week they play Ipswich Town at Portman Road

## Great Woking cause a stir

Simon Wilde looks at two clubs relishing their runs in *The Times* FA Youth Cup

Whether a view is breathtaking or not depends on where one began walking. A second-round tie in *The Times* FA Youth Cup may be a molehill to the mightiest football clubs in England and Wales, but to others it represents a mountain heroically climbed.

The air is certainly becoming rarified for the boys of Great Woking Rovers, who are quietly thrilled to discover how their little run in the competition has put their village on the map — in the minds of a few outsiders, at any rate.

Great Woking, five miles from Southend and home to a few thousand inhabitants, has been putting out a men's team since Lloyd George's premiership, but set up a youth team only a few years ago. In their only previous foray into the cup, Rovers fell at the first hurdle.

This year, they have beaten Ipswich Wanderers, Harlow and King's Lynn in the qualifying rounds and Crawley Town in the first round. Their reward is to play Ipswich Town, erstwhile Football League champions, away from home at their Portman Road ground next Monday.

"This is an incredible thing for us. They have played in cup finals in their own league, but this will be the biggest game most of the boys have ever played in," Roger Sampson, the club secretary, said.

One of the boys' fathers is taking a coach-load of friends the 40 miles to Ipswich for the tie, while other family sup-

porters are also making the trip. When Great Woking beat Crawley in the previous round, 160 people watched the game, their biggest attendance.

In their league, the Eastern Junior Alliance, they can select boys up to 18 years old and benefit from the fact that other leagues are restricted to an age ceiling of 16½. They recently picked up several over-age players from Catholic United, of the Southend Junior League. But, against that, must make do without one of their best players, Stavros Jones, who is registered with Barnet and unavailable for the cup.



Great Woking are ready for their tie with Ipswich Town

When they take on the largely full-time opposition of Bristol Rovers at their own Southbury Road stadium on Wednesday evening, half will have come hot-foot from work.

Living in the shadow of Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur, Enfield has been running a youth side for nearly 30 years, with considerable success of late. Jim Chandler, the manager, has the assistance of two coaches and players who have been picked up from professional clubs. In the first round of the competition, which is sponsored by *The Times*, they beat Stevenage Borough 5-1.

"Ours is not a story of great hardship. The youth team receives more support than many non-league sides and at a recent match drew an attendance of nearly 500, which is about what the first team attracts," Tony O'Driscoll, the club's former secretary, said.

"We had a good run a couple of years ago when we beat Leyton Orient and this year we feel we can give Bristol Rovers a good game." There is a strong social side to the competition, for boys and parents. O'Driscoll's son, Oliver, played over 200 times for the Enfield youth side and was on schoolboy forms with Wimbledon for a while. "We dads liked to meet up, have a drink and chew the fat," O'Driscoll said.

"Wednesday night will be the highlight of the year for the boys. Some of them will not play youth football again. We are going out to enjoy it."



### Third round to be played by January 10, 1998

- Watford or Northampton Town v Plymouth Argyle or Fulham
- Middlesbrough v Charlton Athletic
- Liverpool v Queens Park Rangers or Southend United
- West Ham United or Millwall v Blackburn Rovers or Manchester United
- Leeds United v Norwich City or Crystal Palace
- Blackpool or Everton v Stoke City
- Sheffield United or Tranmere Rovers v Chelsea or Wimbledon
- Portsmouth v Woking or Gillingham
- Southampton v Burton Albion or Nottingham Forest
- Ipswich Town or Great Woking Rovers v Bradford City
- Bury or Peterborough United v Wycombe Wanderers or Welling United
- Hull City v Enfield or Bristol Rovers
- Torquay United or Bristol City v Swansea City or Brentford
- Luton Town v Tottenham Hotspur or Reading
- Notts County v Exeter City or Arsenal
- Crewe Alexandra v West Bromwich Albion or Manchester City

### FISHING

## Macclesfield angler finds true joy in Severn heaven

By BRIAN CLARKE

ONE OF the most coveted — and in recent years controversial — of all angling records has been broken with the capture of a 16lb 3oz barbel from the River Severn in Worcestershire. The fish was taken by Howard Maddocks, of Macclesfield, and beat by a single ounce the former record, set in 1992.

While there is no doubt the new specimen will be accepted by the British Record Fish Committee — after all the witnesses included the chairman of the Barbel Society himself — there will be some disappointment that it could not have weighed in at just a few ounces more.

In August this year, Ray Wood, a London angler, claimed the capture of a 16lb 5oz barbel from the Great Ouse. He did not claim the record, showed no pictures of the fish and would not name the location of his capture. Under normal circumstances, such a claim would

have been given short shrift. However, the Great Ouse has produced many big barbel in the past and so was credible as the source of a monster. Wood is a dedicated barbel angler and therefore credible as the potential captor of such a fish. What is more, the reason Wood gave for his position is one with which anglers increasingly are coming to identify. His principle concern was not for the record but for the fish to be returned alive to the water.

Once a truly big fish is caught and its location becomes public knowledge, it comes under pressure: the chest-beaters and medallion men home in, hoping to catch it themselves. They are naturally helped if the river is small. For months, Wood's claim, unproven and unaccepted but still asserted, has loomed over the specimen hunting world like a ghost.



Maddocks proudly shows off his massive barbel

The medallion-man issue goes further back. Until 1992-93, the barbel record had been held for 58 years by a fish weighing 14lb 6oz. Then, in the space of four months, the record was broken three times, on each occasion with the same fish taken from the same reach of the same river — the Medway, in Kent. The first two claims were even made by the same angler, who caught the fish at 14lb 7oz and then 14lb 11oz. When caught a third time, the fish weighed 15lb 7oz.

Concern was voiced partly for the integrity of the records system, but mostly for the fish itself. It was clear that the Medway barbel was being put under tremendous angling pressure — not only because it was caught repeatedly, but because of its rapid growth.

Barbel is a slow-growing species and for the Medway fish to have put on a pound in a few weeks meant that it must have been living over a carpet of high-protein food. Which means anglers' groundbait.

Since then, specimen-hunters have been going out of their way to avoid "Medway syndrome". More and more secrecy has been creeping in, with the view to protecting large, individual fish. The decision adopted by Ray Wood was, some have argued, simply the most extreme example of a trend.

The fact that the Severn fish has helped to take the spotlight off the Medway will be widely welcomed, but Ray Wood's claim will still haunt some. What everyone in the barbel world is looking for is a fish that will beat it out of sight.

### FOOTBALL

## Composed Latymer make Bolton pay the penalty

By JOHN GOODBODY

ON A day of rare upset, Latymer Upper yesterday won the Independent Schools' six-a-side football tournament at Brentwood.

Some of the more celebrated teams, such as Ardingly and Repton, were beaten and it was left to Bolton to contest the final. Bolton, who had travelled to Essex to beat Brentwood 5-0 in the quarter-finals of the Boodle and Dunthorne Cup on Sunday, understandably became increasingly tired as the day-long competition went on. Winners of the tournament on seven occasions, they had already been taken to penalties by Ardingly and Chigwell before they reached the final.

Latymer shook Bolton by almost scoring in the opening minute, when Jason Mendes hit a post after Richard Sellers, the goalkeeper, who has played nearly 100 games for the school first team, had scrambled a shot away.

Latymer then displayed composure and determination and Dean Francis, who scored six goals yesterday, was a constant threat in attack. They deserved to hold Bolton 0-0 after extra time



IN SCHOOLS

and took the cup by winning the penalty shoot-out 4-3.

Frank McMorrow, master-in-charge of football at Latymer, described the performance as an outstanding team effort. "They got into the mentality of winning," he said.

Haileybury caused another surprise by defeating Repton 1-0 in the quarter-finals with a goal from Ollie Petersen. Repton seemed tired — their team was full of members of the side that won the Midlands schools' hockey title on Sunday — but Haileybury covered ceaselessly and deserved their victory.

In the semi-final draw for the Boodle and Dunthorne Cup, Repton, who beat Eton 2-1 in the previous round, are

at home to Bolton. It will be an interesting, for Bolton were beaten finalists last season, while Repton have won all their 18 games this term, an unprecedented achievement.

Their team is built around three outstanding figures — Adam Ross, the sweeper, Sinclair Le Geyt, in midfield, and Sean McNally, their leading goalscorer.

In the other semi-final, Ardingly, who beat Shrewsbury 3-1 in the quarter-finals, are at home to Qegs, Blackburn, 5-1 winners over King's Chester.

Ardingly are described by Chris Saunders, the former Oxford blue and outgoing headmaster of Lancing, as "the best independent schools team I have ever seen". However, having lost two finals of both this cup and the six-a-side competition in recent years and, having failed to win yesterday, they need to acquire a stern temperament to ensure they are at last victorious this season.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: Haileybury 1 Repton 0; Latymer Upper 3 King's Lynn 0; Hampton 2 Chigwell 2 (Chigwell won 4-3 on pens); Ardingly 0 Bolton 0; (Bolton won 4-2 on pens); Semi-finals: Latymer Upper 3 Haileybury 1; Bolton 0 Chigwell 0; (Bolton won 3-1 on pens); Final: Latymer Upper 0 Bolton 0; Latymer Upper won 4-3 on pens; Plate Competition: Semi-final: City of London 4 Westminster 2; Aldenham 1 St Bede's 1; (Aldenham won 6-5 on pens); Final: Aldenham 3 City of London 0.

### BOWLS

## Anti-women stance scuppers fixture

By DAVID RHYS JONES

MEN and women are equal, except, it seems, when it comes to playing bowls. Despite the growing popularity of the mixed game, officials of the English Indoor Bowling Association (EIBA) have struck a blow for male chauvinists everywhere by cancelling the weekend fixture with the English Bowls Players Association (EBPA) because women would be in the opposition line-up.

When the EIBA found out that the players intended to field two women in their 34-person side, it said that it could not fulfil the fixture, at Watford, because some of its own players "might be upset". Bill Fowler, the 70-year-old president of the EIBA, said: "The fixture was arranged last winter, when the EBPA was an all-male body, and our members would have put their names down on that basis."

Tony Alcock, the chairman of the EBPA, said that the players had changed their constitution in April in order to accept women. "When we opened our doors to women, there was a lot of publicity. There can't be many male bowlers who don't know that we are a mixed association," Alcock said yesterday.

"We were astonished, and disappointed, to learn that the EIBA had a problem. We had selected Margaret Dyer, from Clevedon, and Bridget Hay, from Leamington, and could not countenance asking them to drop out. That would have been unacceptable. Although this annual fixture is a friendly, you can't have your opponents picking your team. It's a matter of principle."

Ironically, six women were among the 300 guests who were at the annual dinner of the national outdoor association (EBA) at the Connaught Rooms in London on Saturday. History was made when the female winners and runners-up of the national mixed competitions were allowed to join their male partners in the body of the hall for the first time. Previously, the only women to be entertained at the annual knees-up were the wives of top-ranking officials, who sit separately, or representatives of sponsors, or special guests.

John Ades, from Warwickshire, has been installed as the new president of the English Bowls Association.



## SNOOKER

# Drago's victory provides tonic

FROM PHIL YATES  
IN SINGEN

TONY DRAGO overcame a heavy head cold and the most promising player to emerge from Australia in 30 years to become the first player to reach the quarter-finals of the German Open here yesterday.

Drago, who began the season at No 11 in the world rankings, his highest position since turning professional in 1985, defeated Quinten Hann 5-3, despite playing and feeling appreciably below par.

"Quinten's a fine player, but thankfully he didn't perform anywhere near his best," Drago said. "My head felt so clogged up when I was down on certain shots that I thought I was going to drop on the table. It caused me to miss a lot of pots."

An errant long red from Hann in the first frame and a weak safety shot in the second afforded Drago the opportunity to compile breaks of 34 and 37 to lead 2-0, but, coughing and spluttering around the table, he could not press home the advantage.

Hann, who included Mark Williams, the world No 4, among his victims in the qualifying competition and is regarded as the most talented Australian player since Eddie Charlton, scored runs of 49, 34, 58 and 35 to account for two of the next three frames.

By winning a scrappy sixth frame, Drago moved 4-2 ahead, but leading 4-3 in the seventh frame and with the balls invitingly spread, Drago jawed a routine black off his spot. Hann, known for his resilience, responded with a 73 clearance to trail only 4-3.

Given Drago's 9-8 defeat by Matthew Stevens in the last 32 of the United Kingdom championship two weeks ago, after leading 5-1 and 9-6, he was entitled to fear the worst. The relief after a match-winning 52 break in the eighth frame was therefore understandable.

"I'm so pleased to get that out of the way," Drago said. "Hopefully, with medicine and a few early nights, I'll be OK for my next game." He will also require a considerable improvement in order to contain James Wattana, who has prevailed in six of their seven previous meetings, or Ronnie O'Sullivan, the title-holder.

## AMERICAN FOOTBALL: VERSATILE QUARTERBACK HELPS STEELERS FORGE AHEAD

# Stewart finds his true calling

By OLIVER HOLT

THEY used to call him "Slash", because, in a sport where one discipline and one position is usually more than enough for any player to cope with, Kordell Stewart excelled in three. Against his name on the Pittsburgh Steelers' roster, officials wrote down his position as quarterback/running back/wide receiver. Those backslashes were a testament to his versatility.

When the Steelers reached the Super Bowl two years ago, Stewart was forced into the wide receiver role, kept out of the quarterback position, which was his favourite, by Neil O'Donnell. But after O'Donnell left for the New York Jets at the start of the following season, Stewart gradually persuaded the Steelers' coach, Bill Cowher, that he should be the starting quarterback.

On Sunday night, in sub-zero temperatures in Pennsylvania, Stewart finally proved that he was no longer a jack of all trades but a master of one when he led the Steelers to an invigorating 35-24 win over the Denver Broncos. Throwing and running with equal success, he seemed to have brought a new dimension to the quarterback position.

The Steelers' victory means that, after a slow start to the regular season, they have clinched a play-off berth with two games to spare. Sitting on top of the American Football Conference (AFC) eastern division, above the Miami Dolphins and New York Jets, they are also beginning to look as though they could be the team with the right momentum to make them the strongest in the AFC come the play-offs.

It seems that Denver, reeling in the wake of two successive losses, might have left their best form behind them once more and they have been overtaken by the Kansas City Chiefs at the head of the AFC West. Sunday, though, was about praising Stewart, not damning John Elway, the Broncos' quarterback, and his stuttering team-mates.

Stewart, who has made it known that he no longer wants to be called "Slash" but "The Man" instead, made such an impact against the Broncos that Cowher ran on to the pitch after the quarter-back sneak — it was more like a brag or a boast than a sneak — that sealed the Steelers' win and threw his arms around his star player.

Stewart completed 18 of 29 passes for 303 yards and

three touchdowns and rushed ten times for 49 yards and two touchdowns to seal a mesmerising personal performance. "It was definitely my best game," he said. Cowher went further. "Kordell Stewart won this game for us with his arm and his running," he said. "It's tough to outscore John Elway, but he did it."

"It was our most complete game of the year. We've been in enough close ones and we've been down before so we have great will to win."

Elway could not disguise his own disappointment, sensing, perhaps, that one last opportunity to win the Super Bowl and his career might be on the point of slipping away. "In the second half," he said, "we didn't make the plays. You have to make some big plays and stay on the field and we didn't do that. Today was a good old-fashioned butt whipping and we were on the wrong end."

Denver's misfortune, though, was immediately seized upon by their division opponents, the Chiefs, who humiliated their most bitter rivals, the Oakland Raiders, by preventing them from scoring a point. Their 30-0 win, helped by three more field goals from Pete Stoyanovich, the National Football League's most proficient kicker, took them into a share of the lead in the AFC West, alongside the Broncos.

As the Chiefs rise, though, another fairy-tale in the east seems to be encountering a grim touch of reality. Two weeks ago, it seemed as though the Jets, who only won one of their 16 regular season games last year, were set for an improbable entrance into the play-offs. On Sunday, they were beaten by the team that has inherited their mantle as the whipping boys of the NFL.

After their 22-14 loss to the Indianapolis Colts in New Jersey, the New England Patriots knocked the Jets off their perch at the top of the AFC East and even the prospect of the play-offs seems to be receding.

"Collectively, I'm not going to put up with that kind of thing," Bill Parcells, the Jets coach, said. "Things will change. Take my word for it."

Finally, the Green Bay Packers, the reigning Super Bowl champions, clinched their place in the play-offs with a 17-6 win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in Florida. "The bully came in and beat us in our own backyard," Warren Sapp, the Buccaneers' defensive end, said.



Harvey Williams, the Oakland running back, takes evasive action against Kansas City

## NFL DETAILS

RESULTS: Baltimore 31 Seattle 24; Chicago 20 Buffalo 2; New England 36 Jacksonville 20; Kansas City 30 Oakland 6; St Louis 34 New Orleans 27; New York Giants 31 Philadelphia 21; Pittsburgh 35 Denver 24; Green Bay 17 Tampa Bay 5; Washington 38 Arizona 28; Indianapolis 22 New York Jets 14; Atlanta 14 San Diego 3; San Francisco 25 Minnesota 17; Miami 33 Detroit 30.

Not including last night's game: Dallas v Carolina

American Conference				
	W	L	T	PA
Miami	9	6	0	227
New England	9	6	0	234
NY Jets	8	6	0	207
Indianapolis	2	12	0	244

National Conference				
	W	L	T	PA
NY Giants	8	5	1	257
Washington	7	6	1	252

Central division				
	W	L	T	PA
Pittsburgh	10	4	0	342
Jacksonville	9	5	0	354
Tennessee	7	7	0	296
Baltimore	5	8	1	291
Chiefs	5	9	0	308

Western division				
	W	L	T	PA
Denver	11	3	0	417
Warren City	11	3	0	327
Seattle	6	8	0	305
Oakland	4	10	0	294
San Diego	4	10	0	310

## SPORT IN BRIEF

# Cardiff make trip pay dividends in the end

ICE HOCKEY: Cardiff Devils came back from the disappointment of losing to Ayr Scottish Eagles in the Benson and Hedges Cup final in Sheffield on Saturday by stopping off for a 6-2 win against the Superleague leaders, Nottingham Panthers, on the way home on Sunday. Steve Thornton gave Cardiff the lead, but a Greg Hadden goal levelled the scores within a minute. Marty Veseluch put the visitors ahead again, but once more Nottingham replied swiftly, this time through Jeff Sebastian.

In the last four minutes of the second period, Kip Noble and Ian Cooper scored for Cardiff and this time there was to be no response. Ivan Matulik scored Cardiff's fifth goal 29sec into the final period and Noble netted his second of the game in the 46th minute to complete the victory.

The bottom club, Newcastle Cobras, also picked up two points away from home, beating Basingstoke Bison, the team just above them, 4-2. Jamie Pegg, Brett Stewart, Randy Smith and Jonathan Weaver scored the goals for Newcastle.

## Law ends on high note

SAILING: Chris Law, of Great Britain, finished a strong season on the international match-racing circuit with a convincing win at the inaugural Marriott Frenchman's Reef championship in Charlotte Amalie Harbour in the Virgin Islands, a competition that featured a number of skippers expecting to compete in the America's Cup in 2000.

Law, who came to the grade I event fresh from victory at the Bayona championship in Spain, took the title with a 3-0 win over Peter Holmberg, of the Virgin Islands, in the best-of-five final on Sunday. Law reached the final after a tough contest with the world No 11, Luc Pillot, of France, whom he beat 3-2.

## Leading two draw closer

BOWLS: Graham Robertson, the holder, from East Lothian, and John Price, from Swansea, who have each won the CIS (Insurance) Scottish Masters title three times, are lined up to meet in the semi-finals at Coatbridge tomorrow. First, however, Price has to get past David Gourlay, of Prestwick, the 1996 world indoor singles champion, today. Robertson faces Robert Marshall, the Scottish national champion, from Dainfield.

## Nemeth offers to resign

BASKETBALL: Laszlo Nemeth, the England coach, offered his resignation yesterday after the team's 83-61 European championship qualifying defeat by Ukraine at Guildford last Wednesday, a performance he described as "a disgrace". Nemeth, whose team won 72-64 in Denmark and lost 92-76 to Spain at Plymouth before the Ukraine result, will learn his fate after the English Basketball Association executive board meeting on Saturday.

## Male retains title

RACKET: James Male, the world champion and No 1 seed, has retained his Lacoste amateur singles championship at Queen's Club by beating Guy Barker in three straight games. Male, who has recently been concentrating his efforts on Real Tennis, dropped 13 points in the final and just one game during the entire week to capture the first significant rackets championship of the season.

## Irish meet Springboks

RUGBY UNION: Ireland will play two internationals during a seven-match tour of South Africa next summer, the full national team's first visit there since 1981 — apart from participation in the 1995 World Cup, when Ireland did not play the Springboks. The tour opens with a match against Boland on May 30 and ends with the second international at Pretoria on June 20.

## SWIMMING: CHIEF EXECUTIVE TOLD GOVERNING BODY SHOULD CUT ITS COSTS

# Regions rebel over five-fold fee increase

THE Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) has been sent back to the drawing board by members over a planned five-fold increase in membership fees designed to float the sport out of the red next year (Craig Lord writes).

On a tour of the six regions of English swimming, David Sparkes, chief executive of the ASA, found widespread opposition to his plans to raise basic annual fees for 270,000 members from 60p to £3, which would add almost £850,000 to income in all regions, except the West.

The fund-raising exercise, which is deemed necessary because of an expected loss of about £200,000 in accounts yet to be published for the year to September 30, will be voted on at the annual meeting in February. A compromise of around £150 has been suggested, raising nearly £250,000 of extra income. The regions are calling for the ASA to find £300,000 in savings from its general budget.

Natalya Meshcheryakova, Vladimir Pyshenko and Olga Kochetkova, the three Russians suspended last week after testing positive for an anabolic steroid, will next week tell Fina, the international governing body for swimming, that they had been tricked into eating a cake spiked with the drug. The appeal is expected to fail.

## LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985  
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IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985  
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Court of the High Court of Justice (Companies Division) has on 11th November 1997 made an order appointing [Name] as liquidator of the above-named company.

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## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Dealer North		Love all		Rubber bridge	
♠ AQJ2		♥ AKQ 10 8 4		♦ 10 9 8 3	
♣ 9 8		♠ 10 9 8 3		♥ 7 6	
♠ 7 4		♣ 10 9 8 3		♦ 10 9 8 3	
♥ J 9 7 5 2		♠ 10 9 8 3		♥ 7 6	
♦ K J 10 8		♣ 10 9 8 3		♦ 10 9 8 3	

W	N	E	S
Pass	1H	Pass	1S
All pass	4C	Pass	6S

Contract: Six Spades by South  
North's Four Club bid showed a singleton or void club with four-card or longer trump support. I was East. I passed Four Clubs as I could stand a diamond lead. If I had had nothing in diamonds, I would have doubled Four Clubs, to warn my partner not to expect diamond help from me.

South's leap to Six Spades was precipitate. He should just bid Four Diamonds — as spades have been agreed by inference, this would be a cue-bid showing first- or second-round control. North then wheels out the "Old Black" (ie, Four No-Trumps, asking for aces) and the good slam is reached more elegantly.

After the diamond lead to the king and ace, declarer correctly played a heart to the ace and ruffed one low — if

## KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### Veteran's Record

Today I give the full cross-table of veteran Viktor Korchnoi's fine performance in the double round tournament at Ceska Trebova. Korchnoi (aged 66) won first prize by a clear margin and was the only player not to lose a game.

White: Jan Smejkal  
Black: Ljubomir Kavalek  
Ceska Trebova 1997

### English Opening

1	c4 b6
2	e4 Bb7
3	Nc3 e6
4	g3 Bb4
5	Nge2 f5
6	Bg2 Nf6
7	-d3 fex4
8	0-0 Ne6
9	chx4 Ne6
10	h3 Ne6
11	h3 Ne6
12	Nd4 Ne6
13	Bd4 Ne6
14	Be3 Qg6
15	Nxe6 Bxe3
16	Nd8 Qh3
17	Ne2 Nf5+

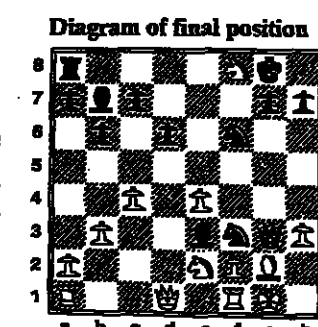
### Ceska Trebova, Final Cross-table

Korchnoi	—
Kavalek	½, 0
Pisarek	0, ½
Smejkal	0, ½

In the above table 1 represents a win, ½ a draw and 0 a loss.

### By Raymond Keene

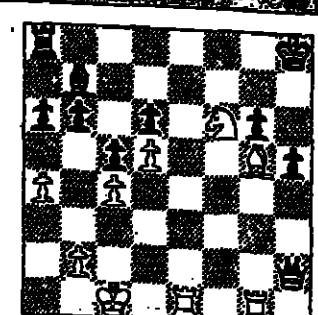
White to play. This position is from the game Speelman - Azmaiparashvili, Menorca, 1994. White has sacrificed his queen for a dangerous attack against Black's vulnerable king. How did he now continue?



White: Ljubomir Piatnik  
Black: Jan Smejkal  
Ceska Trebova 1997  
Pirc Defence  
1 d4 d6  
2 Nf3 g7  
3 e4 Bg7  
4 Nc3 Nb6  
5 Bc2 0-0  
6 0-0 Nbd7  
7 h3 e5  
8 Re1 exd4  
9 Nxd4 Re8  
10 Bc4 Nf6  
11 Nf3 Be7  
12 Be3 d5  
13 exd5 exd5  
14 Bxd5 Qd7  
15 Qe2 Qe7  
16 Nxe5 Qxe5  
17 Nxd5 Qxd5  
18 Nc3 Qe6  
19 Nc5

Black resigns  
Tomorrow, I will commence coverage of the games from the FIDE Championship in Groningen, Holland.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



Solution, page 49







## CRICKET

# England take the first steps on World Cup path

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN SHARJAH, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

THIS week, in the unlikely setting of an oil-rich emirate, English cricket seeks to take a big step forward. The road to the 1999 World Cup, which England is staging, begins here and the knowledge of the team's abysmal performance at the last one is still fresh in everybody's mind. The Champions Tournament, therefore, represents a golden opportunity for all 14 players.

The team, who arrived here yesterday from Lahore, where they won two warm-up games against Pakistan A, has more immediate goals. If the players do well in the next fortnight, then the composition of the side that concludes the West Indies tour next April with five one-day internationals will be easier to define.

At the moment, the identity of that side and the man who leads it is uncertain. Michael Atherton, the Test captain, was unavailable for this jolly. He is on holiday at the end of his benefit year, but, as a batsman, he has not been greatly missed. The sort of one-day cricket that has

evolved over the past few years is not a game for which he is particularly well equipped.

It is quite possible, likely even, that if Adam Hoggie continues to make a good impression as leader, then he will be invited to take charge of a side similar to this one in the Champions Tournament, therefore, represents a golden opportunity for all 14 players.

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Stewart: shrewd judge

## Schofield spins way to five-wicket haul

CHRIS SCHOFIELD, the Lancashire leg spinner, became the first bowler on the England Under-19 tour of South Africa to take five wickets in an innings before the match against Boland Under-19 finished as a draw yesterday (John Stern writes).

Schofield, who finished with five for 82 in Boland's first innings of 253, posed problems for all the batsmen. Andrew Cyster, the left-hander, in particular. Cyster

struggled for 41 balls for a single before he fell offering no stroke.

When England batted for a second time, their top three took advantage of some weary bowling and fielding. The half-century for Graham Napier, who lasted one ball in the first innings, was particularly welcome.

England declared at 191 for three to give their seam bowlers some work, Boland finishing at 83 for one.

### SCOREBOARD FROM PAARL

ENGLAND UNDER-19: First Innings 253 (N Flanagan 88, G R Hoggie 92)  
Second Innings 151  
S D Peters c Cyster b Orling 55  
R W K Aheron c De Lange 78  
G R Hoggie c Cyster b Krynauw 56  
C P Schofield not out 2  
Eduas (b 11, w 3, nb 13) 40  
Total (3 wickets dec) 151  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-130, 3-174, 4-227, 5-233, 6-240, 7-248, 8-250, 9-252  
BOWLING: Grove 8-0-18-1, Frankis 18-2-30-0, Laraman 2-0-15-0, Napier 6-0-25-0, Schofield 5-0-25-5, Hoggie 8-0-25-0, Swann 29-4-10-39-3

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Smithies practices in the nets Photograph: André Camara

## England retain optimism over trophy prospects

Thrasys Petropoulos finds the women's World Cup-holders in positive frame of mind as they begin their defence of the trophy

is no immediate disadvantage in this, as four teams from each group qualify for the quarter-finals, but should a quarter-final be abandoned due to rain, the team with the higher position in their pool goes through. One of England, Australia or South Africa — three of the strongest sides in the competition — will come third in pool A, leaving the possibility that they will be eliminated by possibly inferior opposition on a technicality should a match be abandoned, a threat

made all the more plausible with unseasonable rains falling over nearly all of India in recent days. Pool B includes New Zealand — rated joint-favourites with England — as well as India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Taylor is well aware of the merits of New Zealand, but said: "The biggest unknown will be Australia. When we beat them in that World Cup in 1993, they had been dominant for the last ten years. I am sure they will be back

for revenge." England begin their campaign in Hyderabad against South Africa — who are newcomers to the tournament — tomorrow and then face a draining train journey to Vijayawada, on the east coast, to face Pakistan on Thursday, before heading back to Hyderabad immediately after the match.

This demanding series barely completes the halfway stage of the preliminary round. England, however, are not alone in facing a difficult travelling schedule: other teams in pool A have similar problems. In contrast, the travelling schedule for some of the teams in pool B — notably India, who play Sri Lanka in the opening match in Delhi today — is a lot less arduous. Pool B teams will also benefit from playing fewer matches, after the withdrawal of Canada.

Not that this has led to any dampening of spirits in the England camp. Both their warm-up matches, against the Andhra Pradesh women's state side at the Gymkhana ground in Hyderabad, brought comprehensive victories.

Joining South Africa in the competition for the first time are Pakistan and Sri Lanka. England have nothing to fear from either. In a hopelessly one-sided match against New Zealand earlier this year, Pakistan conceded 455 in 50 overs and were beaten by 408 runs. Realistically, only four teams are good enough to win the cup: England, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, but the subcontinent has ways of turning logic on its head when it comes to World Cups.

### WORLD CUP DETAILS

Pool A matches: Dec 10: England v South Africa (Hyderabad), Pakistan v Denmark (Bangalore), Australia v Ireland (Madras), Dec 12: England v Pakistan (Vijayawada), Australia v South Africa (Bangalore), Ireland v Denmark (Madras), Dec 14: England v Denmark (Hyderabad), South Africa v Ireland (Pune), Pakistan v Australia (Hyderabad), Dec 16: England v Ireland (Pune), Australia v Denmark (Bombay), South Africa v Pakistan

(Vijayawada), Dec 17: New Zealand v India (Indore), Holland v Sri Lanka (Jaipur), Quarter-finals: Dec 20: (1) 1st Pool A v 4th Pool B (Jaipur), Dec 21: (2) 2nd Pool A v 3rd Pool B (Chennai), Dec 22: (3) 3rd Pool A v 1st Pool B (Pune), Dec 23: (4) 4th Pool A v 2nd Pool B (Bombay), Semi-finals: Dec 26: Winner 1 v Winner 3 (Chennai), Dec 28: Winner 2 v Winner 4 (Madras), Final: Dec 29: (winner of Dec 28) (Calcutta)

Pool B matches: Dec 10: England v Australia (Pune), Dec 12: New Zealand v India (Indore), Holland v Sri Lanka (Jaipur), Quarter-finals: Dec 20: (1) 1st Pool A v 4th Pool B (Jaipur), Dec 21: (2) 2nd Pool A v 3rd Pool B (Chennai), Dec 22: (3) 3rd Pool A v 1st Pool B (Pune), Dec 23: (4) 4th Pool A v 2nd Pool B (Bombay), Semi-finals: Dec 26: Winner 1 v Winner 3 (Chennai), Dec 28: Winner 2 v Winner 4 (Madras), Final: Dec 29: (winner of Dec 28) (Calcutta)

## National league will help Scotland develop

BY KEVIN FERRIE

PLANS for the setting up of the first truly national Scottish cricket league are expected to be ratified tonight. Officials of the Scottish Cricket Union (SCU) are delighted that their potentially controversial proposals have been accepted by all of the country's leading clubs.

"We have been trying to do this for so many years," Alex Ritchie, the SCU general manager, said. "It almost happened five years ago, but the Western Union wouldn't come in."

The need to ensure that Scotland are given every possible chance of making a respectable showing in the 1999 World Cup seems to have been the catalyst for change.

"Our development plan was to qualify for the World Cup and introduce a properly representative national league," Ritchie said. "One seems to have helped put the other in place, because our success in the ICC Trophy [Scotland's third place brought World Cup qualification] has concentrated a lot of minds."

Next season, the 21 sides from the two divisions of the Scottish Cricket League and the ten from the Western Union first division will take part in three conferences, two of ten clubs and one of 11, designed to produce a new three-division league for 1999.

An intensive schedule has been prepared for the international squad next season. Although a proposed week-long tour by Sri Lanka, holders of the World Cup, will not now take place, Bangladesh, who have also qualified for the World Cup, will make a 12-day visit and a powerful Australia A side will spend 18 days in Scotland.

In addition, Scotland will again compete in the Benson and Hedges Cup and the NatWest Trophy. They are hosting the home nations' triple crown tournament for amateur players and will go to Holland for the European championships.

"We believe we are now offering our players the best possible preparation for the World Cup," Ritchie said.

## Moody says his age is no barrier

TOM MOODY has won an unexpected recall to the Australia limited-overs team for the match against South Africa at the Melbourne Cricket Ground today. The call-up of the 32-year-old captain of Western Australia and Warwickshire, who last played an international match on January 12, against the West Indies, appears to contradict the selectors' policy of bringing young players into the line-up.

"I don't think I'm too old," Moody said yesterday. "I'm at the peak of my career." Moody will replace Glenn McGrath, the fast bowler, who suffered a stomach muscle injury in the three-wicket win over New Zealand at Adelaide Oval on Sunday. "I think I can win a game off my own bat and provide stability to the bowling," Moody added.

Significantly, Moody scored a brilliant 160 in the Sheffield Shield match against Tasmania in Perth, in front of Trevor Hohns, the national chairman of selectors.

Australia lost to South Africa by 67 runs in the first tri-series match before beating New Zealand.



Wasim Akram, the Pakistan captain, appeals against Carl Hooper, the West Indies' top scorer, in Karachi

## West Indies doomed despite heroics

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

PAKISTAN are on the brink of a clean sweep against the West Indies, despite a fiery century from Carl Hooper, the Kent all-rounder, on the third day of the third and final Test in Karachi yesterday. West Indies, who were 198 for seven in their second innings when bad light stopped play 15 overs early, need another three runs to avoid their third successive defeat.

On a day in which 16 wickets fell, Saqlain Mushtaq, the Pakistan and Surrey off spinner, added four wickets to his five in the first innings.

"Full marks to Saqlain, who bowled well on this flat track," Wasim Akram, the captain of Pakistan and Lancashire, said.

Pakistan lost nine wickets for 90 runs to be all out for 417 — a first-innings lead of 201. Mervyn Dillon finished with five for 111, his best figures in Test cricket, while Courtney Walsh took four for 74.

Ijaz Ahmed, 127 overnight, fell after making 151 and Dillon took three wickets in 36 balls to reduce Pakistan to 359 for four. Walsh then ripped through the lower order with a burst of four wickets, completing 350 wickets by dismissing Moin Khan leg-before for five.

He became the seventh bowler to reach the milestone, achieving it in 96 Tests.

Waqar Younis, the Glamorgan fast bowler, soon had West Indies on the defensive in their second innings, taking two wickets in six balls. He claimed Stuart Williams

for 12 and forced Sherwin Campbell to edge to the slips after making five.

Hooper joined Brian Lara and they took the visitors to 100 for two at tea. Hooper reaching his fifty off 48 balls with eight fours and a six. The 31-year-old from Guyana went on to record the third-fastest century for the West Indies, off 80 balls, hitting 15 fours and three sixes for his eighth hundred in 67 Tests and his third against Pakistan.

"He played like a champion. Now we look to the remaining batsmen to give us a lead to fight," Clive Lloyd, the West Indies manager, said.

Hooper added 121 runs for the third wicket with Lara, who made 37 before being caught. The Warwickshire captain has scored 129 runs in six innings. Hooper was then bowled by Akram for 106 to end a stand of 42 with Shivnarine Chanderpaul, who made 16.

### SCOREBOARD FROM KARACHI

WEST INDIES: First Innings 216 (S L Campbell 50, Saqlain Mushtaq 5-64)  
Second Innings 359  
S L Campbell c Inzamam b Waqar 5  
S C Williams b Saqlain 12  
S G Lam c Mushtaq b Saqlain 37  
C L Hooper b Waqar 106  
S Chanderpaul c Moin b Saqlain 18  
R C Holder c Akram b Saqlain 5  
I O Williams b Saqlain 2  
I R Bashir not out 5  
F A Rose not out 0  
Eduas (b 7, nb 3) 10  
Total (7 wickets) 359  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-19, 3-140, 4-182, 5-186, 6-191, 7-193  
BOWLING: Wasim Akram 14-7-31-1, Waqar Younis 6-0-31-2, Ashraf Mahmood 3-0-32-0, Mushtaq Ahmed 6-0-72-0, Saqlain Mushtaq 16-3-95-4

PAKISTAN: First Innings 417  
Ijaz Ahmed c Chanderpaul 180  
Ijaz Ahmed c Williams b Dillon 151  
Saqlain Mushtaq c Williams b Dillon 15  
Inzamam-ul-Haq b Waqar 4  
Saqlain Mushtaq b Waqar 12  
Moin Khan b Waqar 5  
Ashraf Mahmood not out 26  
Wasim Akram b Waqar 0  
Saqlain Mushtaq b Waqar 0  
Mushy Ahmed b Waqar 1  
Waqar Younis c S Williams b Dillon 12  
Eduas (b 3, nb 3, nb 17, w 2) 31  
Total (3 wickets) 417  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-288, 2-325, 3-333, 4-359, 5-374, 6-388, 7-390, 8-390, 9-395  
BOWLING: Wasim Akram 12-3-74-4, Rose 12-1-44-0, Dillon 28-4-111-4, Bashir 15-0-69-0, Hooper 32-10-74-4, Chanderpaul 7-0-34-1, Umarfarooq C J Mushtaq (South Africa) and Saqlain Mushtaq (Pakistan)

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# Little rejects all talk of World Cup rehearsal

Nice words, diplomatically sound, but it is unlikely that tonight will reveal anything significant. Indeed, Hoddle

Whatever the outcome, this club against club, not Romania versus England. The bigger ball game can wait.



supposed move of Emerson from Middlesbrough to Tenerife yesterday. The Brazilian midfield player was quite clear at the weekend when he said that he had been involved in negotiations with the Spanish club. "The deal is almost complete," he said.

Yesterday, though, Middlesbrough begged to differ. Viv Anderson, the assistant

As for Kirsten, though Oliver Bierhoff (again a scorer for Udinese, against Bologna, in a 4-3 win on Sunday) seems to have displaced him in Germany's team, he is still a formidable goalscorer. He hit three in the recent 4-2 home win against the German champions, Bayern Munich, and followed up with a goal in Leverkusen's last Champions' League game, a 2-0 win at Lieke.

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## WEIGHTLIFTING

**CHIANG MAI, Thailand:** World champion-  
ship: Men: 54kg: 1. Lam Shengzhang (China)  
snatch 127.5kg, jnk. 160.5kg, total 111.5;  
287 kg; 2. Yan Bin (China) 115.0, 280.0,  
272.5; 3. W. Hsin-yuan (Taiwan) 115.0,  
147.5, 262.5; 59kg: 1. S. Geopriyong (Bur)  
130.0, 160.0, 295.0; 2. Li Jia (China) 125.0,  
170.0, 300.0; 65kg: 1. S. Minchew (Bur)  
127.5, 162.5, 290.0; 54kg: 1. Xiao Jun  
(China) 127.5, 162.5, 290.0; 60kg: 1. S.  
Subramaniam (Tas) 145.0, 170.0, 315.0; A.  
McKethorn (Azer) 132.5, 172.5, 305.0.  
Women: 48kg: 1. Lu Ling (China) 75.0,  
100.0, 175.0; 2. A. Kurniati (Indo) 72.5,  
97.5, 170.0; 3. S. Indriyani (Indo) 75.0, 95.0,  
170.0; 50kg: 1. A. Winna (Indo) 80.0, 105.0,  
185.0; 2. J. Onchwong (Bur) 82.5, 105.0,  
188.0; 3. P. Yang Hwa (N Kor) 80.0, 100.0,  
180.0; 54kg: Group A: 1. Meng Xun Juan  
(China) 87.5, 117.5, 205.0; 2. S. D. Dhaning  
(Nep) 85.0, 110.0, 195.0; 3. S. Dhaning  
(Tha) 85.0, 110.0, 195.0; Group B: 1. E.  
Fernandes (SriLan) 75.0, 95.0, 170.0; 2. N.  
Marino (Vie) 72.5, 95.0, 167.5; 3. S.  
Jimenez (Mex) 70.0, 95.0, 185.0.

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